



## Debt Finance

We regularly advise senior lenders, mezzanine lenders, equity investors, investment funds and companies on all aspects of syndicated and bilateral debt financing, including all aspects of the financing of public and private company acquisitions, MBOs, MBIs and other institutional buyouts across the globe.

Our lawyers provide advice and assistance to clients dealing with distressed credit issues and work closely with our restructuring group to find appropriate solutions.

[Read more](#)

### CAPABILITES

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#### Local strength, global reach

Our international debt finance team comprises 80 partners and 200 lawyers in over 35 locations. This means we can seamlessly advise our clients on cross-border transactions, as well as providing cutting edge legal advice in our domestic markets.

#### Strength in depth

Our international team has strength in depth to advise clients on acquisition/leveraged buy-outs, refinancings, recapitalisations/shareholder cash outs, new debt raises, public to private transactions, post-IPO facilities or restructuring existing facilities. We are experienced in advising on the full spectrum of financing and capital solutions including:

- acquisition & leveraged finance
- asset based lending
- bank lending
- private credit fund lending
- senior funding
- unitranche/super senior structures (including first out/last out structures)
- second lien funding
- mezzanine funding
- Holdco/PIK structures

#### Market insight

Our global coverage means we are able to provide our clients with advice on current market trends to ensure that they get the optimal

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- Corporate
- Private Equity

financing structure and terms for their specific needs. We pride ourselves on providing commercial, pragmatic solutions for clients to ensure they achieve their goals with a minimum of fuss.

### **Sector knowledge**

As part of the financial services sector we regularly advise, or have strong relationships with ABL providers, banks, credit funds, debt advisers, institutional investors, private equity houses, security agency providers and vendor management teams. Consequently, we have a deep understanding of the issues that can arise on financing transactions and can provide tailored advice that balances the requirements of all parties.

## **EXPERIENCE**

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Our recent international experience includes advising:

### **Credit fund deal credentials:**

- BlueBay Asset Management in relation to the financing of the International Schools Partnership Group, a Partners Group portfolio company
- Permira Debt Managers on the funding for Inflexion-owned Bollington Wilson group
- Pemberton Asset Management on the acquisition financing provided to HIG European Capital Partners regarding its acquisition of the Corona Corporate group
- Hayfin Capital Management in relation to the provision of unitranche and super senior revolving credit facility refinancing facilities to the Mondo Minerals group
- Muzinich Private Debt Fund and Iberian Private Debt Fund on funding arrangements for Dolfer Meridian

### **Bank deal (sponsor) credentials:**

- International banks including Investec and Bank of Ireland on the provision of an all senior debt financing package to Levine Leichtman Capital Partners in support of their acquisition with management of GL Education, a leading London-based provider of educational assessments in the United Kingdom and Europe
- GE Capital and Ares Management Limited on their joint venture unitranche funding to the Nicotra-Gebhardt Group of Companies, backed by Ergon Capita

### **Bank deal (corporate lending) credentials:**

- Deutsche Bank as mandated lead arranger, sole co-ordinator and agent in respect of an acquisition and working capital term facilities for a major China-based real estate conglomerate
- A major British financial institution and a major Spanish Bank in connection with the refinancing of an existing facility made available to Shepherd Neame Limited, Britain's oldest brewer
- A syndicated bank group (led by Westpac, with Commonwealth Bank of Australia, St. George and another bank as lenders) on SG Fleet Group's AUD250 million acquisition of the Fleet Hire Group and the Motiva Group

### **Borrower (plc/corporate) credentials:**

- Merlin Entertainments plc on the refinancing of its bank facilities including an increased and extended GBP600 million revolving credit facility used to repay term loans, implemented in a complex and novel repayment mechanism to rebalance the outgoing lenders and incoming lenders
- Keller Group plc in respect of the refinancing of its existing credit facilities via entry into a new syndicated revolving credit facility for GBP375 million, provided by a syndicate of eight financial institutions to borrowers within the Keller Group spanning eight jurisdictions
- LivaNova plc on a USD170 million bridge facility entered into with Bank of America Merrill Lynch to fund its acquisition of TandemLife
- The Carlyle Group on the financing of their acquisition of Livingstone Technologies, the UK's largest independent provider of Software Asset Management (SAM) managed services
- Banglalink on its USD300 million equivalent facility arranged by Citibank and Eastern Bank Limited, the largest ever syndicated facility in

Bangladesh

## Borrower (sponsor owned) credentials:

- Symphony Technology Group, in connection with a multi-currency financing in relation to their acquisition of Visma Retail and Extenda, two of the most prominent technology providers in the tier 1 and 2 retail industry
- GE Capital and Ares Management Limited on their joint venture unitranche funding to the Nicotra-Gebhardt Group of Companies, backed by Ergon Capita
- A leading mid-market sponsor in relation to acquisition facilities for one of its insurance sector portfolio companies
- Graphite Capital on the acquisition financing and refinancing package for its portfolio company, Trenchard Aviation
- Lone Star Funds on the financing of the acquisition of Propertize, a regulated entity in the Netherlands, with a (loan) balance sheet of approximately EUR5.6 billion

## INSIGHTS

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### Publications

#### Direct Lending Report 2022: Going mainstream

7 April 2022

Direct lenders have proved the doubters wrong. This is especially true across the European leveraged finance market that was, until recently, controlled by traditional banks. The inroads made by private debt funds in a few short years have been impressive. In this report we look back over a year of abundance and outline what can be expected in 2022

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#### Direct lending and ESG

7 April 2022

Managers of private capital are becoming more aware of environmental, social and governance (ESG) concerns and direct lenders are no exception. Richard Normington, legal director, discusses how this emergent trend is developing and what to expect in the future.

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#### Old dog, new tricks: Direct lending in the US

7 April 2022

The US direct lending market may be more mainstream than its European cousin but was far from dull, enjoying its biggest year ever in 2021. Fundraisers in the US direct lending market pulled off a remarkable feat in 2020. As panic set in around the world and businesses batted down the hatches, private debt managers celebrated a stand-out year.

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#### Regions under the spotlight: DACH and Benelux

7 April 2022

"Taking a step back, if the US is T, then the UK is T minus one. Then you have the Netherlands and Germany at T minus two or three, and Belgium after that, in terms of chronological development," says Max Mayer, a partner in DLA Piper's Amsterdam debt finance practice.

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## **Taking the stage: Direct lending market in Europe**

7 April 2022

It's safe to say Europe's direct lending has stepped out from the shadow of its older, more established US cousin. And the stage is set for the market to grow bigger and faster. Europe's direct lending market took some time to get going, but last year the region firmly planted its flag in the ground.

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## **The journey continues: The future of direct lending**

7 April 2022

Europe's direct lending market has come an awful long way over the past decade, and yet has so much more room to grow. Direct lending is becoming mainstream but forecasts show it could become commonplace. Oxford University's Said Business School has estimated that assets under management (AUM) may rise by up to 50% in the medium term if market penetration grows in line with current levels seen in the US, measured by AUM as a percentage of GDP.

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## **New Year: New Terms for the Mid-Market?**

7 March 2022

Insight into the recent trends from the European large-cap debt space and their emergence in the UK and European mid-market.

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