

Buyouts

Deal Of The Year Awards 2021

CALLING
ALL ENTRIES

Buyouts is now accepting nominations for its annual Deal Of The Year Awards, which honor exceptional buyouts that were fully or mostly realized in 2020. We no longer require applicants to be based in the United States. The deadline for submissions is Friday, February 12, 2021.

Winners will be selected in seven categories (listed right) and results will be published in an issue of *Buyouts* to be distributed this spring.

Qualifications

- To be considered for the Deal Of The Year awards in various size categories, the original purchase must involve a majority stake purchase, full or partial private equity sponsorship, and result in the target company remaining private or going private. (Thus, transactions such as PIPEs and the merger of two public companies will not be considered.)
- The LBO firm must have exited at least the majority of its equity position, and therefore must no longer be the lead investor. We will consider deals where the LBO firm retains a small equity position. Exits can take the form of a sale to another private equity firm, a strategic buyer or an IPO.
- The exit must have closed in 2020 (but could have been agreed to or announced in 2019). With the exception of the International deal of the year, we will consider only US transactions.
- There is no minimum deal size, but it's unlikely that we would strongly consider a deal with an enterprise value of less than \$10 million at exit time.
- We will recognize the lead sponsor of a deal and potentially co-sponsors, if they played a significant role.

Award Categories

Small Market Deal Of The Year	Recognizing the sale of a company with an enterprise value at the time of the exit of up to \$200 million.
Middle Market Deal Of The Year	Recognizing the sale of a company with an enterprise value at the time of the exit of \$200 million up to \$1 billion.
Large Market Deal Of The Year	Recognizing the sale of a company with an enterprise value at the time of the exit of \$1 billion or more.
International Deal Of The Year	Recognizing the exit of a company with headquarters in Europe. This deal can be of any size.
Turnaround Of The Year	Defined as a situation where the LBO sponsor acquired a depressed or struggling company and made significant, identifiable improvements. While the improvements could have been made before 2020, the exit must have occurred in 2020. This deal can be of any size.
Deal Of The Year	The greatest LBO exit of 2020. This will be given to the single deal that stands out for its innovation and execution. It is not necessary to submit a separate application for deal of the year if you have entered for one of the other deal categories. This deal can be of any size.
Secondaries Of The Year	Recognizing a secondaries transaction that involves the sale of existing LP stakes, GP-led Liquidity processes, secondary-led spinouts or some combination of the three.

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What wins?

Listed below are the most significant criteria by which the deal related entries will be judged by the editors of *Buyouts*. Most award winners will be exceptional in one or two of these areas, and it is not necessary to excel in all of them to win.

- **Origination** (Was the deal proprietary?)
- **Innovation** (How was your approach unique?)
- **Timeliness** (How quickly and efficiently was the deal agreed to and financed? What obstacles were overcome?)
- **Financing structure and subsequent refinancings**
- **Success of any add-on transactions**
- **Operational and personnel improvements**
- **Exit** (How well were options vetted? How good was the timing?)

Submissions

Deals can be submitted for as many categories as you like. Also, there is no penalty for one firm nominating multiple deals for one category. Submissions for each available award must include the following:

- **Executive summary of the deal, highlighting those aspects of the deal that make it most deserving of recognition, not to exceed 200 words.**
 - **Bullet point highlights of no more than two pages, or an essay not to exceed 1,000 words, describing why the transaction deserves an award, including details listed below:**
- 1 Please submit the target name, purchase price and details of the capital structure post-closing. We'd also like details on the condition of the company when you purchased it.

Please supply such details as trailing 12-month revenue, EBITDA, number of employees, factories and other relevant financial metrics. Also provide the names of all parties involved (other sponsors, law firms, accounting firms, investment banks, etc.).

- 2 As for the exit, we'd like to know the sale price, the date of purchase agreement and closing, and the names of all parties involved (other sponsors, law firms, accounting firms, investment banks, etc.). Please supply trailing 12-month revenue, EBITDA, number of employees, factories, and other relevant financial metrics and benchmarks.
- 3 Please supply an explanation of how much value was created during your ownership through organic growth and add-on acquisitions. For any add-on acquisitions, please provide timing, purchase price and relevant financial metrics.
- 4 The strongest entries will provide supporting details, anecdotes and independent, third-party evaluations. We welcome contact information for third parties who could discuss the transaction.
- 5 Please provide any relevant backup documentation, including press clippings, etc.
- 6 Show the net and gross IRR for the transaction as well as net and gross multiple of investment.

DEADLINE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021

Send application via email to
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