

Press release

Celerant Consulting and M&A Partners Join Forces to Accelerate Value in Merger Integration

Partnership Compresses Integration Cycle Time on Large-scale Mergers by a Minimum of 25%, Improves Free Cash Flow by 30-50%

IRVING, TEXAS and LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS: Celerant Consulting, Inc., the global management consultancy specializing in delivering operational improvement, today announced the formalization of a long-standing strategic alliance with M&A Partners, a tools-based advisory firm specializing in mergers, acquisitions, corporate consolidation and revitalization. Celerant's sector specific resources and models have historically delivered client return on investment of 6X. By combining the capabilities used to deliver this level of value to its clients with M&A Partners' arsenal of over 150 pre-packaged templates and models, clients will have the potential to compress integration cycle time on large-scale mergers by a minimum of 25%, improve free cash flow by 30-50%, as well as ensure the retention of critical talent, customers and revenue throughout the process.

As a key initiative of the agreement, Celerant will apply M&A Partners' s3 Merger Acceleration Methodology, Toolkit and Cockpit, a highly structured and disciplined framework that enables complex task and workflow management across the enterprise, to Celerant's value-based implementation approach. The s3 Cockpit contains a virtual, secure "clean room" and contains a library of tools and templates to aid with training, action planning, implementation and measurement. M&A Partners and its proprietary s3 Toolkit was recently featured in the McGraw Hill book *The Art of M&A Integration* by Alexandra Lajoux.

"Both Celerant and M&A Partners have a long track record of success in helping our clients successfully grow through acquisition," said Paul de Janosi, Managing Director of Celerant's Private Equity Practice. "By formalizing this agreement we can now jointly develop industry-specific merger assets that will substantially raise the bar on return from mergers. At a time when two-thirds of all acquisitions fail to deliver anticipated shareholder value, we have committed to exceed value creation targets more rapidly and efficiently than any other consultancy."

"Celerant and M&A Partners both place the achievement of improved integration results as the hallmark of this relationship," said Jim Jeffries, Managing Partner of M&A Partners. "Our shared values, experiences and expertise make this partnership a natural extension of the work we've done to date."

ABOUT CELERANT CONSULTING

Celerant Consulting (Celerant) is a leading global management consultancy specialising in delivering operational transformation across a broad range of industry sectors.

Celerant helps leading companies worldwide achieve and sustain world class performance from their operations. The essence of its approach is Closework®; consultants immerse themselves in client operations, working side-by-side with people in the front lines of the business to ensure sustainable and measurable gains in top- and bottom-line performance. Celerant focuses on embedding long-term behavioural change into the culture of the client organisation – the key to sustainable change.

In 2006, Celerant delivered over \$1 billion in annualised sustainable savings to its clients. Over the last 20 years, Celerant has become the largest independent firm of business operations consultants with revenues of \$145 million in 2006.

ABOUT M&A PARTNERS

M&A Partners (www.mapartners.net), founded in 1999, is a Dallas, Texas-based firm that assists companies and their internal teams to assure maximum value creation in mergers, acquisitions, corporate consolidation and revitalization. The company is the creator of the celebrated s3 Cockpit Merger Integration Management toolset that provides models, methodology, workflow, collaboration and complete transparency throughout the integration process.

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