

Press Release

Rautenberg & Company takes over Bassewitz & Hochberg and continues to grow M&A Advisory capabilities

Düsseldorf/Frankfurt, 1 March 2018: Rautenberg & Company, the advisory firm specializing in value creation and M&A, has taken over the renowned corporate finance boutique Bassewitz & Hochberg in Frankfurt, thus further expanding its M&A advisory business in Frankfurt.

Following several years of healthy organic growth, Rautenberg & Company strengthens its position with the acquisition of the boutique M&A consultancy Bassewitz & Hochberg Corporate Finance GmbH & Co. KG (BHCF). The two founders of Rautenberg & Company, Arndt Rautenberg and Jens Moritz, are thus significantly expanding their expertise in M&A and corporate finance and their market position.

Arndt Rautenberg said: "Bassewitz & Hochberg has an excellent reputation and an outstanding network, extensive expertise and many years of experience in medium-sized M&A advisory, especially for family businesses. By integrating it into the existing Rautenberg & Company structure, we are strengthening our expertise and overall capabilities."

In the course of the integration of BHCF, Philipp Hochberg (55) will become Senior Partner and Gerd Bassewitz (49) Senior Advisor of Rautenberg & Company. Bassewitz & Hochberg has in recent years developed a strong position in providing first-class advisory services in M&A transactions and related corporate finance solutions for medium-sized companies. Most recently, it supported the Autogrill Group in the recent takeover process of food travel retailer LE CROBAG with its 120 locations in Germany, Austria and Poland from Boulangerie Neuhauser (Groupe Soufflet).

Philipp Hochberg said: "We look forward to our new common future, and I am convinced that we will generate significant additional growth through integrated advice in Strategy & Value Creation and Corporate Finance. We not only guarantee that the support of a transaction from end to end, from the idea through the process to completion, comes from a single source, but also that the objectives pursued by a transaction are actually achieved. Our main common advantage is that we consistently focus on supporting medium-sized transactions."

Philipp Hochberg was a shareholder and executive board member of C H Reynolds Corporate Finance AG for more than 12 years and helped build C H Reynolds. Prior to that, he worked at Doertenbach & Co. and Ernst & Young. Over the past 20 years, he has successfully advised family shareholders and financial investors in particular on more than 50 transactions and financings. With his expertise in the industrial sector

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(mechanical & plant engineering and industrial products), food and consumer goods / retail, he will support in broadening the sector competence of Rautenberg & Company.

Gerd Bassewitz (49), co-founder of Bassewitz & Hochberg, previously worked for Deutsche Bank and Lehman Brothers, and has since developed considerable expertise in the food service and travel retail sector, which he will contribute to the company. Bassewitz will support the company as a Senior Advisor and will continue to focus on advising clients from his extensive network of family-owned companies, financial investors and the food service sector. He will also manage the family investment portfolio and pursue other mandates.

Jens Moritz, also a founding partner of Rautenberg & Company, will be responsible for the M&A advisory business from Frankfurt together with Philipp Hochberg. With the successful sale of IT security specialist IT CUBE Systems to Secure Link, one of Europe's leading cybersecurity providers and portfolio company of the international private equity house Investcorp, Rautenberg achieved a highly acclaimed success in M&A already last year. Jens Moritz, who will continue to head the Frankfurt office, said: "With our in-depth experience in strategy consulting, M&A and private equity, we offer small- and midcaps a comprehensive transaction support service. The Bassewitz & Hochberg team is the ideal complement to this, and we are very much looking forward to working with them."

About Rautenberg & Company

Rautenberg & Company supports financial sponsors and their portfolio companies as well as corporates and midsize companies in all stages of a transaction: From deal origination and execution to value creation and the preparation and support of successful exits. Three business units work closely together to provide unique support to our clients – our **Strategy & Value Creation** unit, our **M&A Advisory** as well as our own **Principal Investment** business.

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