



Thomson Reuters EXTEL Survey Confirms United First Partners #1 Ranking in Pan European Special Situations Research in 2014. UFP Pursues Expansion Plan to Broaden Cross-Asset Initiatives.

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United First Partners ("UFP") is pleased to announce that Europe's leading investor survey Thomson Reuters EXTEL ranked UFP #1 Pan European Special Situations Research firm, for three consecutive years, in 2012, 2013 and 2014. This achievement reflects UFP's commitment to excellence in Special Situations Research, providing best in class and in-depth research coverage on companies where specific events may act as a catalyst for material price actions, using fundamental analysis and unique in-house legal resources.

Stephane Mardel, co-CEO, commented: "The recognition of our leadership in Special Situations is the result of hard work across the Securities division. Our extensive customer base, premium research, sales and trading expertise result in high market shares in situations covered by our research department. Our significant block trading capacity makes UFP a natural choice for long only and alternative investors looking for liquidity in Special Situations names".

Michael Hadjedj, co-CEO based in New York, added: "UFP aims to further broaden cross-asset initiatives, including in fixed income and credit with a substantial hiring plan in the coming 12 months, within the securities and financial advisory business lines".

In addition, UFP has recently appointed Anna Pavlik, a senior antitrust and regulatory counsel, previously at Allen & Overy, to bolster the legal specialist team in the research department. The North America Equity Derivatives group was strengthened by the hiring of Steve Paradise, formerly senior manager at Nomura. In Europe, Gilles Maggiorani, previously at Commerzbank where he held senior M&A banker roles covering pharmaceuticals and industrials, has joined the European research department.

This year UFP also successfully launched its financial advisory business with the appointment of Pascal Marionneau, previously Executive Board member at Kepler Cheuvreux and Senior Trading Advisor to the Global Markets' Board at Société Générale.

About United First Partners

United First Partners is a world leading Special Situations Securities, Research and Advisory firm. The company was founded in 2009 by Stéphane Mardel and Michael Hadjedj. The platform is operating in Europe, Americas and Middle East and has offices in London, New York, Geneva and Luxembourg. The group has built strong strategic alliances with some of the world leading institutions, amongst which Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan. This year, the group is expanding its global operation network, building new strategic partnerships on the distribution side and is looking at possible acquisitions to accelerate the expansion of its financial advisory operations and develop an investment advisory division. United First Partners has built its reputation on the independence of its research and the quality of its intermediation services in North America and Europe thanks to its strong human capital and unparalleled business network.