

ALSTON & BIRD LLP

One Atlantic Center
1201 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3424

404-881-7000
Fax: 404-881-7777
www.alston.com

Contact: Barbara Bryant
Alston & Bird
(404) 881-7901
barbara.bryant@alston.com

Tess Alberts
Edelman
(202) 326-1779
tess.alberts@edelman.com

Alston & Bird Sweeps Industry Accolades for Sea Launch Chapter 11 Reorganization

***Law Firm Adds Global M&A Network Turnaround Atlas Award and ACG New York/M&A Advisor
Champions Cross-Border Transaction of the Year to Growing List of Debt Restructuring Honors***

ATLANTA (June 23, 2011) — The national law firm of [Alston & Bird LLP](#) today announced that it received a Turnaround Atlas Award in the technology, media and telecom industry category at the Global M&A Network's Annual Gala held last week in Chicago. The Alston team, which included members of the Bankruptcy, Workouts & Reorganization, International Trade & Regulatory, Finance, and International Tax groups, was honored for its role in managing the Chapter 11 reorganization and \$2.3 billion debt restructuring for commercial satellite launch service provider Sea Launch, by which a Russian entity acquired majority ownership interest. The transaction was also named "Cross Border Transaction of the Year" on Monday at the Association for Corporate Growth (ACG)'s New York Champions awards ceremony, co-hosted by *M&A Advisor*.

"It is a terrific honor to be recognized by two of the industry's gold standard trade organizations for our role in this transaction given the complexities of navigating international regulations and licensing," said Richard R. Hays, managing partner of Alston & Bird. "Alston & Bird takes great pride in the seamless work of our talented team of seasoned professionals who demonstrated an admirable level of creativity and resiliency to see this transaction through from start to finish."

The Sea Launch deal was nominated by Buccino & Associates, Inc., which collaborated with Alston & Bird on the transaction. Members of Alston & Bird's deal team included:

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- [Dennis Connolly](#), partner and leader, Bankruptcy, Workouts & Reorganization Group
- [Matthew Levin](#), partner, Bankruptcy, Workouts & Reorganization Group
- [Tom Crocker](#), partner, International Trade & Regulatory Group
- [Brian Betancourt](#), partner, Finance Group
- [Sam Kaywood, Jr.](#), partner, International Tax Group and chair, Federal Income Tax Group

After a year of complex international negotiations, the team finalized the transaction, which saved more than 100 jobs, retained home port operations in the U.S., and preserved one of only three commercial satellite launch providers in the world, guaranteeing competitive pricing within the commercial satellite industry and reliable access to space.

The Global M&A Network hosts world-class conferences, including the Gold Standard of Performance and the M&A Atlas Awards for mergers, acquisitions, turnaround and alternative investor communities. Over 238 eligible assignments and deals were evaluated globally toward selecting this year's Turnaround Atlas finalists. Winners were announced during the invitation-only gala held in conjunction with Global M&A's Distressed M&A Forum Investing Summit.

The Association for Corporate Growth provides a global community with 56 chapters for 14,000 members who include professionals from private equity firms, corporations and lenders that invest in middle-market companies, as well as from law, accounting, investment banking and other firms that provide advisory services. An independent body of experts, who represent a cross-section of the middle market industry, judged the finalists' deals, deal makers and firms. Winners were announced during the inaugural sold-out gala dinner at Sotheby's New York, which honored New York's top transactions, leading firms and services from the past year.

Alston & Bird's efforts to reorganize Sea Launch have been previously recognized by *M&A Advisor*, which awarded the law firm the 2011 Turnaround Award in the "Cross-Border Deal of the Year" category earlier this year in Palm Beach, Florida and by the Turnaround Management Association in Atlanta, Georgia in November 2010.

About Alston & Bird

With 800 attorneys, Alston & Bird is a leading national *AmLaw 50* firm. The firm's core practice areas are intellectual property, complex litigation, corporate and tax, with national industry focuses in health care, financial services and public policy. The firm has built a reputation as one of the country's best employers, appearing on FORTUNE magazine's ranking of the "100 Best Companies to Work For" 12 consecutive years, an unprecedented accomplishment among law firms in the United States. The firm has offices in Atlanta, Charlotte, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, Research Triangle, Silicon Valley, Ventura County and Washington, D.C.

For more information on Alston & Bird, please visit www.alston.com.

About Global M&A

Global M&A Network is diversified information, media and conference connecting company. It serves the mergers, acquisitions, alternative investing, restructuring and turnaround communities, worldwide. It produces educational and networking centered forums and the highly regarded and prestigious M&A Atlas Awards worldwide. The dealmaker SPOT●LIGHT weekly editorial profiles an exceptional executive from the corporate, private equity, venture capital, investment bank and legal deal communities.

About The M&A Advisor

Since 1998, The M&A Advisor has been the preeminent organization facilitating connections and recognizing achievement in the top performers of the M&A, turnaround and financing industries through its leading Awards, Summits, M&A ALERTS™ newsletters, M&A LINKS™ social network, M&A MARKET INTEL™ research and publishing service and M&A CONNECTS™ business development services. For more information, please visit www.maadvisor.com.

About ACG New York

ACG New York is the premier association in New York City, representing 900 middle market dealmaking professionals: private capital providers (both equity and debt), M&A advisors, corporate executives, accountants, attorneys and other related service providers. ACG New York annually hosts more than 50 events in New York City, Westchester and Long Island attended by over 7,000 professionals annually. For more information, please visit www.acgnyc.org.

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