

HD Deals of the day- Mergers and acquisitions**WC** 1,041 words**PD** 16 December 2014**ET** 08:06**SN** Reuters News**SC** LBA**LA** English**CY** Copyright 2014 Thomson Reuters. All Rights Reserved.**LP**

(Adds BT, Lafarge, BP, Mondelez, Vice Media)

Dec 15 (Reuters) - The following bids, mergers, acquisitions and disposals were reported by 2100 GMT on Monday:

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** Britain's BT has entered into exclusive talks with Orange SA and Deutsche Telekom AG to **buy** EE for 12.5 **billion** pounds (\$19.6 **billion**), opting for the country's biggest mobile operator over rival suitor, Telefonica SA's O2.

** European Union antitrust regulators approved on Monday the proposed merger of France's Lafarge SA and Swiss peer Holcim Ltd to create the world's biggest cement maker.

** European Union competition authorities gave conditional clearance on Monday for **oil** major BP Plc to **buy** jet fuel business Statoil Fuel and Retail Aviation.

** European Union antitrust regulators opened an extensive investigation into a proposal by Mondelez International Inc and competitor D.E Master Blenders 1753 to combine their coffee businesses, concerned this may reduce competition.

** Vermont-based coffee roaster and brewing technology maker Keurig Green Mountain Inc will move most of its U.S. coffee buying operation to Switzerland, following rivals who have already moved to the global hub for commodities trading.

** Thoma Bravo LLC and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan said they would **buy** network equipment maker Riverbed Technology Inc in a deal that valued the **company** at about \$3.6 **billion**.

** Pet supply retailer PetSmart Inc succumbed to calls from some shareholders for a **sale** on Sunday by agreeing to be bought by a private **equity** consortium led by BC Partners Ltd for \$8.7 **billion**, in the largest leveraged buyout of the year.

** Apache Corp said it would sell its stakes in two LNG projects, Wheatstone LNG in Australia and Kitimat LNG in Canada, along with accompanying upstream **oil** and gas reserves, to Australia's Woodside Petroleum Ltd for \$2.75 **billion**.

** Emerson Electric Co said it would sell its power transmission unit to Regal Beloit Corp, a maker of electric motors, for \$1.44 **billion** as it streamlines its business.

** A 10 percent **stake** in gas utility GDF Suez, worth about five **billion** euros (\$6.2 **billion**), could be the first major item on the block in a planned **sale** of French state assets, sources and analysts say.

The government announced in October it planned to raise between 5-10 **billion** euros by selling state holdings, using the proceeds to repay debt and reinvest in strategic industries.

** The **board** of Spanish **oil** major Repsol SA will hold an extraordinary meeting on Monday afternoon to approve a takeover bid for Canada's Talisman **Energy** Inc, daily Expansion said on its website.

- ** Australian data storage **company** Recall Holdings said it rejected a A\$2.2 **billion** (\$1.82 **billion**) takeover offer from U.S.-based rival **Iron** Mountain Inc, sending its shares to their highest level since listing.
- ** A unit of Taiwan's Delta Electronics Inc has agreed to **buy** Norwegian telecom power units maker Eltek ASA in an all-cash deal valuing the **company** at 3.87 **billion** crowns (\$525.37 **million**), the two firms said in a joint statement on Monday.
- ** GIC Pte Ltd, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, formed a joint venture with an Indian **property** developer for two **residential** projects near New Delhi, the two firms said in a statement on Monday.
- ** French **oil** services **group** Technip said on Monday it would press on with its strategy of broadening its range of services despite its failed attempt to **buy** seismic surveys specialist CGG.
- ** U.S. brokerage BGC Partners Inc has agreed to **buy** London rival RP Martin, the latest step towards the consolidation of an industry under pressure from tough new rules for its traditional banking clients, low volatility and rock-bottom interest rates.
- ** Vice Media will go on a "deal spree" next year and may explore an initial public offering, the Financial Times reported citing an interview with the youth-focused digital content **company's** Chief Executive Shane Smith.
- ** Specialty chemicals **firm** Johnson Matthey Plc has agreed to sell its **gold** and silver refining business to Japan's Asahi Holdings Inc for 118 **million** pounds (\$186 **million**) in cash, the British **firm** said on Monday.
- ** A loan of up to \$800 **million** to help Abu Dhabi-based entrepreneur **B.R.** Shetty acquire a majority **stake** in foreign exchange operator Travelex has been completed, two sources aware of the matter said on Monday.
- ** South African financial services **group** MMI Holdings Ltd is to **buy** a local stock brokerage house from Botswana's Imara Holdings Ltd to increase its exposure to wealthier investors, it said on Monday.
- ** Israeli conglomerate Delek **Group** Ltd said it had failed to reach an agreement to sell its controlling **stake** in insurer Phoenix Holdings Ltd.
- ** **Chinese** utility **China** General Nuclear Power Corporation (CGN) will **buy** three small UK onshore **wind** farms with a combined capacity of 73 megawatts from French state-controlled utility EDF, a source familiar with the matter said on Monday.
- ** The Swiss private banking arm of HSBC Holdings Plc is not for **sale**, the unit's chief executive said in a newspaper interview published on Saturday.
- ** TUI AG is in talks with investors interested in buying its **stake** in Hapag-Lloyd as an option in its long-planned exit from the German shipping **company**, TUI's chairman told a newspaper.
- ** Finnish paper manufacturer Stora Enso said on Saturday it was selling a loss-making specialty fine paper mill in Germany to a **company** mainly owned by the private **equity** fund Perusa Partners Fund 2 for about 7 **million** euros.
- ** Aramex has bought the master franchise for South African retailer PostNet for \$16.5 **million** from OneLogix **Group**, the Dubai-based courier **firm** said on Sunday.
- ** French **hotel** operator Accor SA announced on Sunday a strategic alliance with **China** Lodging **Group** to create a major new player in the fast-growing **Chinese** domestic travel and hospitality market.
- ** Thailand's PTT PCL said on Monday it will sell its palm **oil** business in Indonesia for an undisclosed sum by June next year, as the top Thai **energy company** moves to divest non-core **operations**.

(\$1 = 1.2118 Australian dollars) (\$1 = 7.3662 Norwegian kroner) (Compiled by Lehar Maan and Yashaswini Swamynathan in Bengaluru)

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CO bp : BP PLC | comtn : Telefonica SA | dbptel : Deutsche Telekom AG | dgt : Orange S.A. | dk : Mondelez International Inc | hfg : Holcim Ltd | lafar : Lafarge SA | sfrtol : Statoil Fuel & Retail ASA | vicmpi : Vice Media Inc. | actide : Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc

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