

**HD Bain Capital buys Australian Boost Juice parent**

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SYDNEY, May 30 (Reuters) - U.S. private **equity firm** Bain Capital said on Friday it bought Australian fast food **company** Retail Zoo, owner of Boost Juice Bars, in a deal a source said was worth about A\$185 **million** (\$171.84 **million**).

Bain and Retail Zoo, which has 294 stores in Australia and another 100 stores in countries including Malaysia, South Africa, the U.K., Singapore and Russia, confirmed the **sale** in a statement without elaborating on the details.

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A source with direct knowledge of the **sale** said the deal valued Retail Zoo at about A\$185 **million**, including a **stake** of less than half to be kept by the **company's** husband and wife founders, Executive Chairman Jeff Allis and Executive Director Janine Allis.

The vendor was another U.S. private **equity firm**, The Riverside **Company**, which the source said had wanted to sell since late 2013. Local media reported Riverside bought a 65 percent **stake** for A\$65 **million** in 2010.

The source declined to be identified because they were not authorised to speak publicly about the matter. Bain and Retail Zoo did not comment on the value of the deal. Riverside representatives were not immediately available to comment.

Australian food companies are increasingly attractive to offshore investors because they are well placed to capitalise on the growing Asian middle class and its appetite for good quality products.

Earlier this month, Australian **bread** and **dairy company** Goodman Fielder agreed to a A\$1.37 **billion** takeover offer from **China's** Wilmar International Ltd and First Pacific Co.

On May 27, U.K.-based R&R Ice Cream Plc said it would **buy** Australian ice cream **company** Peters Food **Group** Ltd from its private **equity** parent Pacific **Equity Group** in a deal Australian media valued at about A\$450 **million**.

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**CO** bainca : Bain Capital, LLC

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