

HD Deals of the day- Mergers and acquisitions**WC** 1,997 words**PD** 3 July 2014**ET** 06:04**SN** Reuters News**SC** LBA**LA** English**CY** (c) 2014 Reuters Limited**LP**

(Adds Vodafone, Facebook, Ingenico, UGI, Lamda, Ambev, Nexter, CITIC; updates Telefonica, Kroger, Orange, Total, Netia, Vopak)

July 2 (Reuters) - The following bids, mergers, acquisitions and disposals were reported by 2000 GMT on Wednesday:

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** The European Commission said it had approved Vodafone's 7.2-**billion** euros (\$9.79 **billion**) **acquisition** of Spain's largest cable operator Ono without conditions.

** Aramco Overseas Co, a unit of Saudi Arabian state-run **oil** giant Saudi Aramco, said it had agreed in principle to **buy** Hanjin **Group**'s 28.4 percent **stake** in South Korean refiner S-**Oil** Corp for about \$1.95 **billion**.

** Roche Holding AG said it would pay up to \$1.73 **billion** to **buy** Seragon Pharmaceuticals, a privately held U.S. biotech **company** that researches breast cancer treatments.

** Italian broadcaster Mediaset SpA said it was in talks with Qatari-owned broadcaster Al Jazeera and other players on a potential collaboration in pay TV **business** in Italy, its vice chairman said.

** Malaysian state investor Khazanah Nasional Bhd plans to take Malaysian Airline System Bhd private as the first step in a major restructuring of the loss-making airline following the disappearance of its Flight MH370, two people with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

** Facebook Inc is acquiring video advertising **company** LiveRail in the Internet social network's latest step to make video ads a bigger part of its **business**. Facebook did not disclose a price.

** Cloud service provider Rackspace Hosting Inc is considering taking itself private and is in talks with a private **equity firm** to fund the deal, technology blog TechCrunch reported on Wednesday, citing a source.

Rackspace, which put itself on the block earlier this year, may make an announcement by the end of this week, TechCrunch reported.

** French IT systems **group** Ingenico said it was in exclusive talks to **buy** Amsterdam-based online service payment provider GlobalCollect for an enterprise value of 820 **million** euros.

** Brazilian lender Itau Unibanco Holding SA is in exclusive talks with a potential buyer of its high-risk corporate insurance unit, with the roughly \$1.5 **billion** real (\$678.7 **million**) **transaction** set to close as early as this week, according to a securities filing on Wednesday.

** U.S. utility UGI is to **buy** Total's liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) distribution **business** in France for about 400-450 **million** euros, marking another step in the French **oil** major's efforts to shed assets in mature markets to boost returns.

** Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) and Turkey's Bank Asya have ended exclusive talks over QIB acquiring a **stake** in the Turkish lender, four sources close to the matter told Reuters, with valuation concerns said to be behind the decision.

** European regulators have cleared Telefonica's bid to consolidate the German mobile market by buying smaller rival KPN's E-Plus for 8.6 **billion** euros, raising prospects of more deals to come across Europe's telecoms markets.

** Kroger Co said it would **buy** Vitacost.com Inc , a health products retailer, for about \$280 **million** in a bid to expand its presence in the profitable health and wellness niche popularized by Whole Foods Market Inc.

** Czech **coal** miner New World Resources made a new pitch to bondholders to back a capital restructuring plan but the scale of the dilution shareholders will suffer and its threat to sell a main **business** unit pushed its shares down by as much as 20 percent.

** Swedish centre-right government will in coming months unveil a new list of additional state-owned holdings in companies it will seek to sell during a possible third term in office, Finance Markets Minister Peter Norman said on Wednesday.

** South Africa's No.2 casino and resort operator Sun International Ltd is to **buy** virtually all the remaining **stake** in a Chilean gaming casino for \$146 **million**, it said on Wednesday, as it pursues a drive to bulk up in Latin America.

** Intesa Sanpaolo is not prepared to invest in Alitalia if trade unions do not give their full support to a **business** plan drawn up by Gulf airline Etihad Airways to rescue the troubled Italian flagship carrier, the chairman of the Italian bank's management **board** said on Wednesday.

** Private **equity group** Blackstone acquired a 10 percent **stake** in Greek real **estate** developer Lamda for 20.2 **million** euros, the latest move by foreign funds warming to Greece's recovery prospects, Lamda said.

** The global brewer behind the U.S. Budweiser lager has moved to strengthen its ownership of the name, making a small **acquisition** in the Czech city whose rival brew fought for years over rights to one of the world's best-known brands.

Anheuser-Busch InBev SA said it had bought a brewery called Samson in the southern Czech city of Budweis.

** Cia de Bebidas das Americas SA, the beer maker known as Ambev, will likely look for acquisitions across Latin America as growth slows in its home turf in Brazil, analysts at Goldman Sachs **Group** Inc said in a report.

** Axiata **Group** Bhd, Malaysia's biggest phone operator by market value, plans to sell its 23.93 percent **stake** in Thai handset distributor Samart I-Mobile to Samart Corp SAMART.BK for 2.87 **billion** Thai baht (\$88.69 **million**).

** Germany is to look into a proposed merger of German and French tank and armoured vehicle makers Krauss-Maffei Wegmann and Nexter to see if it threatens the country's security interests, the economy ministry said.

** France's biggest telecom operator Orange has ruled itself out of bidding for smaller rival Bouygues Telecom , causing share prices across the sector to drop on the prospect of the cut-throat competition continuing.

** France's Total is in talks with PetroChina to sell its **stake** in a **Chinese** refinery after nearly two decades of investment, in what could be the latest foreign **energy firm** giving up on a vast but tightly regulated **oil** market in **China**.

** CITIC Capital Partners, the private **equity** arm of CITIC Capital Holdings Ltd, said it had acquired U.S. dental **company** DDS LAB LLC on undisclosed terms.

** German fashion house Hugo Boss is taking full control of its store network in **China** and Macau as it seeks to improve the way its **brand** is presented, a move that mirrors a broader trend by luxury goods groups in emerging markets.

** Malaysian **billionaire** Robert Kuok's Wilmar International Ltd has convinced Goodman Fielder Ltd to accept a lower takeover offer, as the Australasian food **firm** warned of a massive impairment charge due to pressures on its baking unit.

** Telecom Italia is in favour of keeping its controlling **stake** in Brazilian unit TIM Participacoes because it supplies one third of its **group** revenue, but it does not rule out a **sale**, Chairman Giuseppe Recchi told Il Sole 24 **Ore**.

** **China** said it approved, with conditions, a proposed joint venture between Primearth EV **Energy** Co, two other Toyota units , Hunan Corun New **Energy** and Changshu Sinogy Venture Capital Co.

** Australian regulators said South Africa's Woolworths should provide an independent valuation of Country Road Ltd due to concerns investor Solomon Lew may benefit unfairly from selling Woolworths his **stake** in the Australian apparel retailer.

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) raised its concern about Woolworths Holdings Ltd's A\$213 **million** (\$201.5 **million**) offer to **buy** the **billionaire** investor's 11.88 percent **stake** in Country Road in a Federal Court application on Wednesday.

** The world's third-largest discount supermarkets **group** Dia said on Wednesday it would **buy** Spanish groceries chain El Arbol for a symbolic one euro, and assume the **company's** debt worth up to 150.8 **million** euros (\$206 **million**).

** **China** Offshore **Oil** Engineering **Company** (COOEC) and Norway's Kvaerner are setting up a joint venture in **China** to conduct **oil** engineering projects worldwide in the second international cooperation deal for the **Chinese firm** in six months.

** Celltrion Inc said on Wednesday its top shareholder is no longer considering a **sale** of a **stake** in the biotechnology **company**.

Founder and Chief Executive Seo Jung-jin last year said he would seek a buyer among multinational drugmakers for his controlling interest in the **company**.

** Polish **billionaire** Zbigniew Jakubas, who has indirect control over about 15-percent of shares in telecoms **firm** Netia , said he will not reply to Vectra's bid to **buy** a **stake** in Netia. Polish cable television operator Vectra has offered to **buy** 33 percent of shares in Netia.

** Wienerberger, the world's biggest brickmaker, has agreed to increase its **stake** in Austrian roof tilemaker Tondach Gleinstaetten to 82 percent for 41 **million** euros (\$56 **million**).

** U.S. mother and baby product retailer Destination Maternity has not abandoned its pursuit of struggling British peer Mothercare after revealing on Wednesday it had two bid proposals rejected.

** Dutch **oil** and chemicals storage **company** Vopak said on Wednesday it would divest from 15 primarily smaller terminals and planned to cut capital expenditure by about 100 **million** euros.

** **Commercial** Bank of Qatar will **buy** out the remaining publicly owned shares in Turkey's Alternatifbank and then delist the lender from the Istanbul bourse, it said on Wednesday.

** Korean Air Lines Co Ltd said on Wednesday that its Hanjin **Energy** Co Ltd unit will sell all of its **stake** in South Korean refiner S-**Oil** Corp for 1.98 trillion Korean won (\$1.96 **billion**) to improve the financial structure of the parent **firm**.

** French pharmaceutical **firm** Nicox said on Wednesday it had agreed to **acquire** U.S. **company** Acix Therapeutics Inc as it seeks to create an international ophthalmic **company** around therapeutics and diagnostics.

** The fourth richest Pole Michal Solowow wants to sell his entire 45 percent **stake** in real **estate** developer Echo Investment , Puls Biznesu daily reported on Wednesday, citing several sources. The **stake** is worth 1.2 **billion** zlotys (\$394.3 **million**).

** United Envirotech Ltd, a Singapore-based water treatment **company**, said on Wednesday it was in talks with a potential buyer, but did not give any details.

** **China's** Huaxia **Dairy** Farm Ltd said on Wednesday it has received \$106 **million** in investment capital from a consortium led by Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC and private **equity firm** Olympus Capital, to expand its farming **operations** and retail **dairy business**.

** Private **equity firm** CVC Capital Partners Ltd has hired Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank and Goldman Sachs to handle a share **sale** in Indonesian internet service provider PT Link Net Tbk, which could raise at least \$500 **million**, people familiar with the matter said.

** Proposed **purchases** by **China's** Lenovo **Group** Ltd of IBM Corp's low-end server unit and Google Inc's Motorola Mobility **business** should be completed by year-end, Lenovo Chief Executive Officer Yang Yuanqing said on Wednesday.

** Real **estate** owner Store Capital, backed by private **equity firm** Oaktree Capital Management LLC, has retained banks to explore an initial public offering or a **sale** to another landlord, said people familiar with the situation.

** Italian state-backed private **equity** fund Fondo Strategico Italiano (FSI) and Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) have created an investment **company** with assets and commitments worth 2.185 **billion** euros (\$2.98 **billion**), FSI said on Tuesday.

** Investment bankers are jostling to win plum roles from the founding Lee family of Samsung **Group**, South Korea's top fee-payer, as it prepares to hand the baton to the next generation in a restructuring that could land more than \$100 **million** in advisory fees alone.

Foreign and Korean investment banks are bringing in their chief executives and top dealmakers to pitch for a glut of deals as the \$407 **billion** Samsung **Group** untangles an empire that ranges from electronics to financial services.

(\$1 = 3.04 Polish zlotys) (\$1 = 0.73 euros) (\$1 = 1009.10 South Korean won) (\$1 = 1.06 Australian dollars) (\$1 = 32.39 Thai baht) (\$1 = 2.21 Brazilian reais) (Compiled by Rohit T.K. and Ramkumar Iyer in Bangalore)

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CO aramco : Saudi Arabian Oil Co | giat : Nexter | hofman : Roche Holding AG | ingenc : Ingenico SA | mdset : Mediaset SpA | orfima : Hanjin Group | ssor : S-Oil Corp | dgt : Orange S.A. | ratel : Vodafone Group PLC

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