

**HD Deals of the day- Mergers and acquisitions****WC** 1,152 words**PD** 18 July 2014**ET** 06:04**SN** Reuters News**SC** LBA**LA** English**CY** (c) 2014 Reuters Limited**LP**

(Adds Abbvie, Allergan, TRW Auto, Telefonica, Bingham McCutchen, Fred's, GTECH, Slovak Telekom, Cliffs Natural, Rosneft, Woolworths, Koncar, Dong **Energy** ; updates Fiat Chrysler)

July 17 (Reuters) - The following bids, mergers, acquisitions and disposals were reported by 2000 GMT on Thursday:

**TD**

\*\* Shire Plc and U.S. drugmaker Abbvie Inc plan to announce a \$53 **billion** merger as soon as Friday morning, two people said.

\*\* Allergan Inc, trying to fend off a hostile takeover bid from Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc , has thrown up obstacles to a special shareholders meeting, its biggest investor said.

\*\* German car parts maker ZF Friedrichshafen AG can raise its bid for U.S.-based TRW Automotive Holdings Corp to as much as \$13 **billion**, Bloomberg reported, citing people with knowledge of the matter.

\*\* Telefonica's move to reduce its **stake** in Italian rival Telecom Italia may help the Spanish phone **group** appease regulators over competition concerns in Brazil and possibly accelerate consolidation in that market.

\*\* In the latest sign of financial pressures in the legal industry, the 123-year-old Boston law **firm** Bingham McCutchen is seeking a merger with another top U.S. **firm** and has reached out to at least four in the past three months, sources told Reuters.

\*\* Private **equity firm** Sycamore Partners is in talks with regional discount store operator Fred's Inc about a potential takeover, according to people familiar with the matter.

\*\* Italian-regulated gaming **company** GTECH is backing its \$4.7 **billion** cash and stock **acquisition** of U.S.-based International Game Technology with a \$10.7 **billion** bridge loan.

\*\* The Slovak government has mandated JP Morgan and Citigroup to advise on the **sale** of its 49 percent **stake** in Slovak Telekom, a unit of Deutsche Telekom, a spokeswoman said.

\*\* Casablanca Capital LP said two independent proxy advisory firms have recommended shareholders of Cliffs Natural Resources Inc vote in favor of the hedge fund's bid to replace a majority of the miner's **board** members.

\*\* Morgan Stanley does not believe new U.S. sanctions on Russian **oil company** Rosneft will affect a pending deal between the two companies, the bank's chief financial officer said.

\*\* South Africa's Woolworths cleared the final hurdle to its \$2 **billion** takeover of David Jones after an Australian court gave the upscale clothing and food retailer the green light on Thursday.

\*\* The Croatian government said it would sell a minority **stake** in electrical **firm** Koncar to raise funds for overhauling the newest European Union member's sole fertilizer plant Petrokemija.

\*\* Fiat Chrysler has denied a magazine report saying it's in merger talks with Volkswagen, while the German carmaker said it had no takeovers on its agenda.

\*\* Denmark's Dong **Energy** has agreed to divest 50 percent of a German offshore **wind** farm project to a **group** of Danish pension funds, a **sale** that would free up capital to expand its offshore **wind** business.

\*\* U.S. investment fund Blackstone **Group** LP paid 3.615 **billion** euros (\$5 **billion**) for a portfolio of home loans belonging to Spain's bailed-out Catalunya Banc, the lender said on Thursday.

\*\* Japan's biggest trading house Mitsubishi Corp has submitted a non-binding bid to **buy** Murphy **Oil** Corp's Malaysian **oil** and gas assets valued at about \$2.5 **billion**, a person familiar with the matter told Reuters.

\*\* Hyundai Motor **Group** on Thursday expressed interest in buying the **site** of Korea Electric Power's Seoul headquarters, which real **estate** analysts said could fetch at least 3 trillion won (\$2.91 **billion**).

\*\* Britain's Vodafone and its Greek business partner **Wind** have offered to **buy** the shares they don't already own in Forthnet, a small Greek internet, telephony and pay television provider, Forthnet said on Thursday.

\*\* General Electric Co is in talks to sell its century-old household appliances business for as much as \$2.5 **billion**, Bloomberg reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

\*\* Australia's New South Wales state government is evaluating bids for two power stations it hopes will sell for at least A\$1 **billion** (\$937.3 **million**), a spokeswoman said on Thursday.

\*\* John Malone's cable **group** Liberty Global Plc has bought a 6.4 percent **stake** in ITV from BSkyB .

The **sale**, at a price of 481 **million** pounds (\$824 **million**), may also indicate that BSkyB is looking to raise cash to push ahead with its own expansion plans after it opened talks this year to **buy** Rupert Murdoch's Sky Italia and Sky Deutschland.

Goldman Sachs placed 190 **million** shares in ITV at 190 pence (\$320) each on Thursday, in a **transaction** linked to Liberty Global's **acquisition** of a **stake** in the British broadcaster, traders said.

\*\* German engineering **group** Siemens has been preparing an offer to acquire U.S.-based compressor and turbine maker Dresser-Rand, German magazine Manager Magazin reported on Thursday, citing sources close to Siemens.

\*\* **Hong Kong**-based private **equity firm** Gaw Capital Partners is among several parties that have submitted binding bids for a controlling **stake** in South Korea's Parnas **Hotel** Co Ltd, three people with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The deal is seen worth around 600-800 **billion** won, two of the people said.

\*\* Shareholders of Hyundai Logistics Co, a unit of South Korean conglomerate Hyundai **Group**, signed a contract to sell a 600 **billion** won **stake** in the unit to Japanese financial **firm** Orix Corp, the **group** said on Thursday.

\*\* Switzerland's Novartis and German investment **company** BWK are selling their stakes in medical skin patch maker LTS Lohmann to fellow shareholder Dievini Hopp BioTech, having failed to find a third-party buyer for the business.

\*\* Brazil's state-controlled **oil company** Petróleo Brasileiro SA is in talks to sell the 40 percent **stake** it owns of a Brazilian natural gas distributor to electricity holding **company** Cia Energética de Minas Gerais SA.

\*\* South Korean steelmaker Posco said on Thursday it will pursue the **sale** of three units including a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in order to improve its financial structure.

\*\* Love Culture Inc on Wednesday filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, becoming the latest women's apparel retailer to seek protection from creditors, and said it may be **sold** after having received interest from possible buyers.

\*\* Cyprus-based Golboot Holdings, a **firm** controlled by Goldman Sachs **Group** Inc, **sold** 11.8 **million** shares, or a 1.91 percent **stake**, in Indian auto maker Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd via a block deal on the BSE exchange.

\*\* The Carlyle **Group** LP raised about \$78 **million** by selling its entire **stake** in India's Repco Home Finance Ltd , exchange data showed, making a near nine-fold return on its six-year old investment.

(\$1 = 0.74 Euros) (\$1 = 0.58 British Pounds) (\$1 = 1028.95 Korean Won) (\$1 = 1.07 Australian Dollars)

(Compiled by Ankit Ajmera and Amrutha Gayathri in Bangalore)

**RF** Released: 2014-7-17T21:04:28.000Z

**CO** abvbba : AbbVie Inc. | allgop : Allergan Inc | bindg : Bingham McCutchen LLP | doan : DONG Energy A/S | konca : Koncar Elektroindustrija dd | shiph : Shire PLC | slvcom : Slovak Telecom, a. s. | trimel : Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc. | trwa : TRW Automotive Holdings Corp | zahaf : ZF Friedrichshafen AG | rsneft : Rosneft Oil Company OJSC | dbptel : Deutsche Telekom AG | rosnt : Rosneftegaz | zepln : ZLT Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik GmbH & Co KG

**IN** i35101 : Passenger Cars | iaut : Automotive | i351 : Motor Vehicles | i1 : Energy | i13 : Crude Oil/Natural Gas | i16 : Electricity/Gas Utilities | i257 : Pharmaceuticals | i342 : Electrical Components/Equipment | i353 : Motor Vehicle Parts | i7902 : Telecommunications | i835 : Legal Services | i951 : Health Care/Life Sciences | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services | iindele : Industrial Electronics | iindstrls : Industrial Goods | imedres : Medical Research Services | iphss : Healthcare Support Services | iphlab : Medical/Clinical/Diagnostic Services | iutil : Utilities

**NS** c181 : Acquisitions/Mergers/Takeovers | cacqu : Acquisitions | reqrau : Suggested Reading Automobiles | c18 : Ownership Changes | cactio : Corporate Actions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : FC&E Industry News Filter | redit : Selection of Top Stories/Trends/Analysis | reqr : Suggested Reading Industry News

**RE** austr : Australia | skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | ausnz : Australia/Oceania | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**IPD** Business

**IPC** SERVICE:ABN

**PUB** Thomson Reuters (Markets) LLC

**AN** Document LBA0000020140717ea7h005uo