

HD Deals of the day- Mergers and acquisitions**WC** 1,316 words**PD** 9 May 2014**ET** 05:57**SN** Reuters News**SC** LBA**LA** English**CY** (c) 2014 Reuters Limited**LP**

(Adds STX Offshore, Liberty Media, Liberty Global, Clayton Dubilier, Toshiba, Valeant, Ascometal, Canal Plus, Standard Bank, updates Lundbeck, Ripplewood, Telefonica, Freeport)

May 8 (Reuters) - The following bids, mergers, acquisitions and disposals were reported by 2000 GMT on Thursday:

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** Suntory Holdings Ltd aims to raise about 800 **billion** yen (\$7.87 **billion**) in debt to finance its **purchase** of U.S. spirits **company** Beam Inc, Japan's third-biggest outbound deal ever, people familiar with the situation said.

** Italy's Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP) is confident it will be able to sell by the summer a minority **stake** in its **energy** grid unit CDP Reti, a move that analysts say could fetch the state-backed lender up to 3 **billion** euros (\$4.18 **billion**).

** Companies controlled by Li Ka-shing have launched an unsolicited \$1.8 **billion** takeover offer to other shareholders in Australian gas distributor Envestra Ltd, trumping a rival bid as Asia's richest man continues to expand his **business** interests abroad in a quest for growth.

Cheung Kong Infrastructure (Holdings), which already has a 17.46 percent **stake** in Envestra, is teaming up with Li's other companies Cheung Kong (Holdings) and Power Assets Holdings to **buy** the remaining shares.

** Private **equity firm** Clayton Dubilier & Rice is in advanced talks to **buy** Germany-based packaging **group** Mauser from Dubai International Capital (DIC) for around 1.2 **billion** euros (\$1.7 **billion**), banking sources said on Thursday.

** Freeport-McMoRan **Copper & Gold** Inc said on Thursday it would **buy** Apache Corp's deepwater **oil** and gas projects in the Gulf of Mexico for \$1.4 **billion**, a day after saying it would shed \$3.1 **billion** in Eagle Ford shale assets in Texas. {ID:nL3N0NU5GA}

** Telefonica has finally made its move on Digital+, Spain's largest pay-TV operator. The Spanish telecom giant has offered 725 **million** euros (\$1 **billion**) for media **group** Prisa's 56 percent **stake**. The deal, if inked, makes sense for both the debt-crunched publisher and Telefonica. But it is facing major regulatory hurdles.

** Private **equity firm** GI Partners is in exclusive talks to **acquire** Peak 10 Inc in a deal that could value the information technology infrastructure **company** at between \$800 **million** and \$900 **million**, according to people familiar with the matter.

** Private **equity** firms, including Corsair Capital, were approached to take part in a 400 **million** pound (\$678.62 **million**) rescue fundraising for the struggling Co-op Bank, according to Sky News and a source familiar with the matter.

** Danish pharmaceutical **company** H. Lundbeck is to **buy** Chelsea Therapeutics for up to \$658 **million** in a deal that would give it the rights to the U.S **firm**'s neurology drug Northera.

- ** Shanghai Electric **Group** has agreed to pay 400 **million** euros (\$556 **million**) for 40 percent of power engineering **company** Ansaldo Energia, the latest **Chinese company** to **buy** into Italy's fledgling recovery.
- ** Bank of Nova Scotia is buying 20 percent of Canadian Tire Corp Ltd's financial services **business** for C\$500 **million** (\$459 **million**) in a move to boost the bank's market share in credit cards and get access to more customers.
- ** Turkey on Thursday approved the 751 **million** lira (\$360 **million**) **sale** of armoured vehicle maker BMC, seized from troubled conglomerate Cukurova Holding a year ago, to a businessman close to the government.
- ** John Malone's Liberty Global Plc and Discovery Communications Inc said they would jointly **buy** UK-based All3Media, producer of hit TV shows such as "Skins" and "Midsomer Murders", for about \$300 **million**.
- ** British utility Centrica Plc announced on Thursday it was selling a 40 percent **stake** in its Canadian natural gas **business** to joint venture partner Qatar Petroleum International for around \$200 **million**.
- ** Google Ventures led a \$130 **million** investment in oncology-data **company** Flatiron Health, Flatiron said on Wednesday.
- ** CVC Capital Partners has agreed to **buy** South Korea's KFC franchise from a subsidiary of Doosan Co Ltd for 100 **billion** won (\$98 **million**), Doosan said on Thursday.
- ** South African **dairy** and beverages maker Clover said on Thursday it had bought the yoghurt and long-life **milk business** of fellow **dairy company** Dairybelle for 200 **million** rand (\$19 **million**).
- ** Alibaba **Group** Holding Ltd <IPO-ALIB.N> has struck one of its largest deals with a U.S. e-commerce **company**, agreeing to help Amazon.com rival ShopRunner expand into **China**.
- ** Spanish **oil company** Repsol is still looking for one or several acquisitions of companies or assets to help boost its upstream **business**, its chief financial officer said on a conference call on Thursday.
- ** The chief executive of Lanxess, the world's largest maker of synthetic rubber, said he would not rule out setting up joint ventures with strategic partners for its rubber **business**.
- ** Spanish travel technology **company** Amadeus has not ruled out potential new acquisitions in the internet travel sector, but smaller than the \$500-**million** buyout of Newmarket, the **group's** Chief Financial Officer said on Thursday.
- ** U.S. private **equity firm** Ripplewood has acquired a near 10 percent **stake** in Egyptian property developer SODIC, making its second investment this week in Egypt in anticipation of an economic recovery following months of political upheaval.
- ** TriOil Resources, the Canadian upstream unit of Poland's top **oil** refiner, PKN Orlen, bought its local rival Birchill Exploration, making good on the promise to **buy oil** production assets to increase profitability, PKN said on Thursday.
- ** DirecTV is working with advisers including Goldman Sachs **Group** to evaluate a possible combination with AT&T Inc, following a recent takeover approach from the mobile services provider, according to people familiar with the matter.
- ** General Electric Co has agreed to sell its Wayne fuel dispenser **business** to private investment **firm** Riverstone Holdings LLC, the U.S. conglomerate said on Wednesday.
- ** The Finnish government said it had teamed up with German shipbuilder Meyer Werft to consider buying a troubled local shipyard from South Korea's STX Offshore & Shipbuilding .
- ** Liberty Media Corp is spinning off its cable assets, including a **stake** in Charter Communications Inc , into a new publicly traded **company** called Liberty Broadband, the media holding **company** said on Thursday.
- ** The European Commission said on Thursday it had opened an in-depth investigation set to last more than four months into U.S. cable services **group** Liberty Global's planned **purchase** of Dutch peer Ziggo.
- ** General Electric, which wants to **buy** Alstom's **energy** businesses, is not in talks with Japanese conglomerate Toshiba Corp about the French **company's** power grid **business**, a GE France spokesman said on Thursday.

** Deal-making drugmaker Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc , together with activist investor Pershing Square, plan to push for changes on the **board** of Allergan Inc, which Valeant hopes to **acquire**.

** Lawmakers expressed concern about combining the top two U.S. cable operators at a congressional hearing Thursday to discuss Comcast's plan to **merge** with Time Warner Cable Inc.

** Nordic specialty steelmaker Ovako has joined a **group** of French industrialists and investors to bid for the assets of bankrupt French engineering steel maker Ascometal, the companies said in a statement on Thursday.

** Vivendi's pay-TV unit Canal Plus has held talks with France's top telecoms operator Orange about buying part of its Dailymotion video-sharing website, the Financial Times reported on Thursday.

** Africa's biggest lender Standard Bank aims to take advantage of opportunities in Nigeria by expanding its existing **operations** and has no immediate **acquisition** plans, its **group** chief executive told Reuters.

(\$1 = 1.07 Australian Dollars) (\$1 = 101.72 Japanese Yen) (\$1 = 0.59 British Pounds) (\$1 = 1022.55 Korean Won) (\$1 = 7.03 Egyptian Pounds) (\$1 = 10.48 South African Rand) (\$1 = 1.09 Canadian Dollars) (\$1 = 0.72 Euros) (\$1 = 2.08 Turkish Liras) (Compiled by Avik Das and Ankit Ajmera in Bangalore)

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