

Press release 17 July 2026

NOVACOS advises Ardian on the sale of the GBA Group to Bridgepoint

Düsseldorf, 17 July 2026 – NOVACOS has provided Ardian with comprehensive advice on pharmaceutical law and regulatory matters in connection with the sale of its majority stake in the GBA Group (“GBA”), an international provider of life sciences and laboratory analytics services, to Bridgepoint. Milbank LLP led the transaction on the seller’s side.

Ardian is a leading global investment firm in the private markets sector, currently managing or advising on assets totalling US\$200 billion for more than 1,920 clients worldwide. The firm invests in private equity, real assets and debt, supported by more than 350 investment professionals across 22 offices worldwide.

GBA is an international life sciences services company with more than 3,500 employees, offering a broad range of analytical, logistical and specialised services in the fields of food, the environment, indoor pollutants, drinking water, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, medical devices and cosmetics. GBA is headquartered in Hamburg and operates from around 100 locations across Europe, North America, the Asia-Pacific region and other international markets. The majority of this international expansion has been implemented since 2021 with the support of Ardian.

By successfully advising on this transaction, NOVACOS has once again demonstrated its outstanding expertise in advising on complex regulatory issues within the healthcare and life sciences sectors. At the same time, the firm has highlighted its strong position as a competent partner for challenging deals across the broad spectrum of the healthcare sector.

About NOVACOS

The boutique law firm NOVACOS focuses exclusively on providing commercial legal advice in the life sciences and healthcare sectors. Established in 2016 as a spin-off from Clifford Chance, the firm combines many years of legal experience in the healthcare sector with relevant in-house experience and involvement in industry associations. NOVACOS advises, in particular, national and global companies in the healthcare industry – such as pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device firms – on all aspects of healthcare law. Furthermore, the firm specialises in sector-specific contract drafting and advising on M&A transactions in the healthcare sector. The same applies to compliance in the healthcare sector, which forms another key area of the firm’s advisory practice.

Further information is available at: www.novacos-law.com

Team NOVACOS: Dr Marc Oeben (lead counsel, partner), Guram Gobechia, Savannah Schulte.

About the lead lawyer (NOVACOS)

Dr Marc Oeben has many years' experience advising on M&A transactions in the healthcare sector. In addition, he specialises in advising on the development and implementation of compliance programmes, as well as on collaborations with healthcare professionals, medical facilities, pharmacies and other healthcare service providers. He also has extensive experience in advising on product safety, including strategic advice on product recalls and representation in and out of court in product liability cases and general commercial disputes. Finally, Dr Marc Oeben provides comprehensive advice on regulatory issues relating to the development, authorisation and marketing of medical devices and medicinal products.

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