

Press Release

Munich, August 13, 2021

GLNS advises zooplus AG in connection with the voluntary public takeover offer of Hellman & Friedman on the basis of an investment agreement

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GLNS has advised its long-standing client zooplus AG in connection with the voluntary public takeover offer of Hellman & Friedman for all outstanding shares in zooplus. To that end, zooplus and Hellman & Friedman have entered into an investment agreement defining the cornerstones of the strategic partnership.

zooplus is the leading online pet platform in Europe measured by sales. Founded as a German start-up in 1999, the company's business model has been successfully launched internationally, dedicated to the mission of creating moments of happiness between pets and pet parents across now 30 European countries. With a large and relevant product offering in the pet food and pet care & accessories range, zooplus caters to more than 8 million pet parents across Europe of which more than 5 million made more than two orders in 2020.

Hellman & Friedman is one of the oldest and most experienced private equity investment firms operating today. H&F's distinctive investment approach is focused on large-scale equity investments in high-quality growth businesses in developed markets, primarily in the U.S. and Europe, across growth-oriented sectors. H&F seeks to partner with world-class management teams where its deep sector expertise, long-term orientation and collaborative partnership approach enable companies to flourish. H&F has successfully partnered with companies including in the internet & media and consumer & retail sectors such as Action, Autoscout24, Axel Springer, DoubleClick, Grocery Outlet, ProSiebenSat.1, Scout24, SimpliSafe and Verisure.

GLNS provided comprehensive legal advice on the transaction with partners Dr. Tobias Nikoleyczik and Dr. Bernd Graßl, Counsel Malte Krohn as well as associate Nadja Crombach (all Public M&A / Capital Markets) and Partner Dr. Anselm Lenhard (Finance). Goldman Sachs acted as financial advisor to zooplus. Regulatory aspects were covered by the law firm Buntscheck with partner Dr. Andreas Boos.

Hellman & Friedman was advised by a team of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer led by Dr. Arend von Riegen and Dr. Simon Schwarz. J.P. Morgan acted as financial advisor to Hellman & Friedman.

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GLNS is an independent, international, commercial law firm with a focus on corporate, finance, tax and litigation.

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