

MERGERS&ACQUISITIONS

M&A wrap: TH Lee, Dun & Bradstreet, Rite Aid, Albertsons, Cerberus, private equity fundraising

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Deal News

Rite Aid Corp. (NYSE: RAD) shares sank after the drugstore operator's proposed merger with grocery store chain owner **Albertsons Cos.** was called off, leaving the company with dwindling options amid a rapid transformation of the pharmacy business, reports **Bloomberg News**. Rite Aid and Albertsons, backed by private-equity firm **Cerberus Capital Management LP**, opted to pull the plug on the deal late on Aug. 8 before a special shareholder vote that had been scheduled for Aug. 9. Prominent Rite Aid shareholders **Institutional Shareholder Services Inc.** and **Glass Lewis & Co.** were among those who opposed the deal. Concerns that were cited included the lack of a premium for Rite Aid holders and an alleged possible conflict of interest involving a Rite Aid board member's relationship with Cerberus. The collapse of the deal represents the second time an attempt to combine with a larger retailer has failed for Rite Aid, after its proposed merger with **Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. (NAsdaq: WBA)** fell apart in 2017, amid scrutiny by U.S. antitrust authorities. Rite Aid will now be forced to search for answers while its bigger rivals overhaul their business models amid wider changes in the healthcare system and deep-pocketed new competitors, including **Amazon.com Inc. (Nasdaq: AMZN)**, push into selling prescription drugs. Amazon recently agreed to buy online pharmacy company **PillPack** for about \$1 billion. Pharmacy giant **CVS Health Corp.** agreed late in 2017 to acquire health insurer **Aetna Inc. (NYSE: AET)** for \$68 billion. Read the full story: [Rite Aid-Albertsons failed merger narrows options for the drugstore.](#)

ANI Pharmaceuticals Inc. (Nasdaq: ANIP) has acquired **WellSpring Pharma Services** from **Sentinel Capital Partners** for \$18 million. WellSpring is a contract manufacturer of pharmaceutical and biotechnology services.

Emergent BioSolutions (NYSE: EBS) is buying **PaxVax** from **Cerberus Capital Management** and **Ignition Growth Capital** for \$270 million. **Paxvax** is a vaccine company that focuses on treating diseases, such as typhoid fever. **Perella Weinberg Partners** is advising PaxVax. **Dechert** and **Morgan Lewis & Bockius** are representing PaxVax and **Cerberus**. **Covington & Burling LLP** is representing Emergent.

Hotel operator **Belmond Ltd. (NYSE: BEL)** has hired **Goldman Sachs & Co. (NYSE: GS)**, **J.P. Morgan Securities LLC (NYSE: JPM)** and **Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP** to review strategic alternatives, or seek buyers. Belmond operates 46 luxury hotels mainly under the **Belmond brand**, river cruises, along with the **'21' Club** restaurant in New York.

Junction Energy Capital and **Ara Partners Group** have invested in **Puralube Inc.**, a producer of base oils that uses recycled oil as feedstock. Founding shareholder **Allied Resource Corp.** will keep a stake in the company. **Riverside Management Group** and **Triple A Partners LLC** advised Puralube.

Koda Enterprises Group has acquired **Waterland Supply Co.**, a manufacturer of trailers for boats, personal watercrafts and jet skis. **Sperry, Mitchell & Co.** advised Waterland.

Leonard Green & Partners is buying the **Shade Store**, a provider of customer window treatments, from **Great Hill Partners**. **Barclays**, **PricewaterhouseCoopers**, and **Sidley Austin** are advising the sellers. **Latham & Watkins** is advising Leonard & Green.

Customer content marketing firm **Yotpo** has bought **Swell Rewards**, a provider of premium incentive marketing services for e-commerce brands.