



### MERGERS AND ACQUISTIONS 2016's Most Interesting Transactions In Aerospace, Defense, & Government Services





## FAIRMONT CONSULTING GROUP



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#### Reflections On 2016 M&A In ADG

During 2016 Fairmont supported clients across a wide range of transactions, including many discussed in this report. That exposure gives us a perspective on M&A in aerospace, defense, and government services which we hope you will find interesting and useful as you contemplate the year ahead.

In the realm of <u>commercial aerospace</u>, we observed increasing concern among buyers that the cycle was nearing a peak, coupled with parallel worries regarding pricing and margin pressures, particularly among OEM suppliers. We don't think the aero market is verging on a significant downturn, but we do believe that preferred platform exposure and well-defined, stable contract/LTA positions and meaningful, proprietary aftermarket presence will become more important than ever to both corporate and financial acquirers.

In the <u>defense sector</u> we saw sustained, growing interest in C4ISR, cybersecurity, and unmanned systems, coupled with continuing rationalization of prime contractor and Tier 2 portfolios. The looming question now is how the Trump Administration will affect defense spending and priorities. The public markets certainly delivered a meaningful boost to defense players following the election, but Trump's calls for greater accountability and productivity in the defense industry – notably focusing on the Joint Strike Fighter – portend pricing and margin pressures to come. And of course in defense, urgent operational requirements in the Middle East and elsewhere remain paramount, and may drive unanticipated reprioritization of programs and budgets should new conflicts emerge. Acquirers should remain watchful as new opportunities emerge.

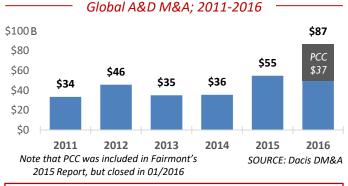
Finally, in **government services** we watched as the long-awaited rationalization of the sector reached its conclusion, and a new generation of players began to take shape. We believe that government services – and particularly Federal, defense, and intel IT services – are on the cusp of a significant shift as commercial tools and techniques are applied more quickly and more broadly to public sector challenges in ways that reduce personnel requirements but provide far greater benefit to the citizen or the warfighter. That is an outcome that industry and taxpayers alike can all look forward to.

- Jay Wynn, Managing Director



#### A Look at the Numbers

After a record year for M&A announcements in 2015 including PCC and Sikorsky, 2016 acquisitions slowed due in part to uncertainties around global economic recovery, government spending, and the U.S. election



#### Looking Ahead to 2017

What events are currently on our radar that could significantly impact the A&D Merger & Acquisition environment in 2017?

#### **Potential Headwinds:**

- Rising interest rates
- Rising valuations
- Commercial aero cycle shift
- Defense sector margin pressure
- Pressure on international trade and partnerships

#### Tailwinds:

- Market confidence
- Access to / availability of capital
- Application of technology
- Business aviation resurgence



#### WHAT DOES FAIRMONT DO?



#### **TRANSACTIONS**

We provide critical market & competitive diligence in support of the acquisition and sale of businesses; detailed, objective independent financial forecasts and critical transaction support



#### **STRATEGY**

We help clients understand evolving markets and changing competitive environments in order to decide where and how to invest time and capital in support of profitable long-term growth





#### **CLIENTS**

Aerospace, defense and government services primes

Tier 2 and Tier 3 suppliers & small/midmarket svc firms





PE portfolio companies

#### **EXPERIENCE**

WHO RELIES ON FAIRMONT AND WHY?

Advisors to CEOs, boards, and leading investors in ADG

100+ strategy engagements

100+ transactions worth \$10B+ in total enterprise value

100+ collective person-years of A&D experience

#### **CAPABILITIES**

Deep domain knowledge across ADG and all subsectors

Technology-enabled, datadriven analytical techniques

Global network of SME's in operations, finance, technology, government

#### FAIRMONT CONSULTING GROUP



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National politics likely played a role in the Safran-Advent transaction, but the combination will create a market leader in the nascent, but quicklygrowing, digital security market.

### Safran divested a non-core asset to two appropriate strategic bidders



Acquired by

Rockwell Collins

Closing Date: Pending Price: \$8,300M Revenue: \$2,726M TEV/EBITDA: 13.5x

This big deal was the largest in Rockwell Collins' history and almost six times larger than the next largest. The high multiple (3.0x revenue and 13.5x EBITDA) is a bet on aerospace interiors, especially within the commercial aftermarket as aircraft come off-lease or are resold to new operators. Since the October 2016 announcement, Rockwell stock is up 10.4%, suggesting favorable market sentiment for this transaction.

Rockwell made a big, and pricey, bet on aircraft interiors and aftermarket



Acquired by

### KKR

Closing Date: Q1 2017 Price: \$1,200M Revenue: \$1,125M TEV/EBITDA: 10.7x

Airbus D&S divested its German Optronics business and both the German and French Electronics and Border Security businesses. The sale includes mostly non-U.S. defense sales in EVV, radar, and periscopes but also includes a huge – and troubled – border security deal in Saudi Arabia. If the contract becomes profitable and other border security projects materialize, this deal could become a great acquisition for KKR.

Process was delayed by a troubled Saudi contract, which remains a risk



METAL



CAD

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Closing Date: Pending Price: \$3,410M Revenue: \$2,110M TEV/EBITDA: n/a

2016 On September 6<sup>th</sup> GE announced intentions to buy both Arcam AB and SLM Solutions Group AG. Arcam AB, based out of Sweden, is the industry leader in electron metal-based additive beam manufacturing (AM). It is the only major manufacturer for this process. With this purchase GE became the majority stakeholder in Arcam significantly bolstering AM its capabilities.

SLM SOLUTIONS Offered/Withdrawn Offer Date: Sep 2016 Price: \$732.9M Offer withdrawn after minimum completion commitments failed to be met The German based SLM Solutions is

The German based SLM Solutions is another industry leader in industrial AM machines. Founded in 2011 it is one of the newest major OEMs in the AM industry, yet generated over \$74M in 2015. As its name suggests, SLM Solutions is a leader in Selective Laser Melting (SLM) technology, a slightly different process from Arcam. Both Arcam and SLM have been successful in developing aerospace and medical businesses.

### CONCEPTLASER

Acquired by Good State: Oct 2016 Price: \$599M

**Revenue:** n/a **TEV/EBITDA:** n/a

In its latest acquisition, GE has purchased another leader in AM: Concept Laser. Founded in 2000, Concept Laser is one of the largest providers of industrial metal AM printers using its proprietary LaserCUSING printing process. This process is in the family of Direct Metal Laser Sintering (DMLS).

In just one year, GE has become the world-leader in metal additive manufacturing. With these acquisitions, GE has defensively maneuvered to prevent competitors from gaining ground on a cornerstone of GE's technology strategy



#### Non-A&D Buyers



Closing Date: Dec 2016 **Price:** \$2,800M Revenue: \$535M TEV/EBITDA: 14.0x

PE Firm Thoma Bravo is divesting Deltek after more than doubling the company's valuation over its four year holding period. Multiple add-ons over holding period helped to consolidate major federal government data providers. Deltek maintains enterprise software that could be leveraged by Roper to serve markets such as healthcare and education in which they currently participate

Roper's foray into Govt./Defense markets hinge on software synergies

СЛИР Acquired by H E A R S T

Closing Date: Oct 2016 **Price:** \$2,000M Revenue: n/a TEV/EBITDA: n/a

Hearst is primarily known for its media portfolio but has been slowly diversifying into data and information based companies. CAMP's tracking software is tailored towards business aircraft owners and provides Hearst with a quality foundation within this sector from which to expand portfolio of aerospace data tracking solutions.

Pento inform engage advance

Acquired by

## informa

Closing Date: Sep 2016 **Price:** \$1,560M **Revenue:** n/a TEV/EBITDA: n/a

Informa, the UK-based business information provider acquired Penton in order to expand international presence in the US. Informa, with of ~\$6b. continues revenues expansion strategy, with emphasis on mitigating exchange risk. rate Acquisition is focused on acquiring capabilities portfolio including digital products, print, and events rather than an entrance into A&D market specifically.

Acquisition of Penton balances and network to expand CAMP's user base increases scale and reach of portfolio



Hearst plans to leverage global

Svcs. Segment Divestitures



Closing Date: Aug 2016 Price: \$4,600M Revenue: \$5,000M TEV/EBITDA: 10.0x

In Washington Technology's 2015 Top 100 list, Lockheed Martin sat on top with nearly \$12 billion of IT-related prime contracts. After acquiring Lockheed's Information Systems and Global Solutions (IS&GS) business, Leidos became the largest federal IT services vendor (and nearly double the size of second place). Leidos management predicted that EBITDA margins would increase across the combined entity from ~8% to ~10%.

Lockheed divested its lower-margin services, creating a new services king



Amidst a portfolio restructuring, L-3 chose to divest its National Security Solutions (NSS) business that focused on enterprise IT, intelligence services, and other national security related solutions. CACI's acquisition allowed the company to increase both the topline, through new customers within the Intelligence Community, and the bottom line, through presumed management and overhead cost reductions.

CACI's acquisition of NSS increased presence in Fed IT by one third

Acquired by

Honeywell

HTSI

Closing Date: Sep 2016 Price: \$266M Revenue: \$600M TEV/EBITDA: 6.3x

Consistent other federal with services contractors, KBR acquired Honeywell Technology Solutions Inc. (HTSI) to expand its service offering into higher-end, higher-margin lines of business. HTSI provides KBR with technical and mission support service contracts including logistics and maintenance, cybersecurity, and physical security to government clients within NASA, the DoD, and the Intelligence Community.

KBR adds IT & cyber services to its Eng. & Construction-heavy portfolio



#### TransDigm Acquisitions





Closing Date: Jun 2016 Price: \$1,000M Revenue: \$200M TEV/EBITDA: n/a

DDC is a supplier of power controls and related products for established military avionics, comm'l aerospace, and space applications. After owning DDC for 13 years, Behrman Cap nearly tripled original investment. Despite paying approx. 5x revenue to acquire DDC, Transdigm has been successful executing this strategy time and time again, paying large multiples to build a portfolio of companies with proprietary products.

At 5x TEV/Revenue, one of the most expensive transactions for Transdigm



Acquired by



Closing Date: Sep 2016 Price: \$260M Revenue: \$75M TEV/EBITDA: n/a

Young & Franklin manufactures proprietary, highly engineered valves and actuators with 70% of revenue coming from aftermarket sales. Established positions with strong aftermarket content on substantial platforms in aerospace sector. Nearly 100% of revenues are from proprietary products, in line with Transdigm's established investment strategy.

Fits the mold of buying assets with proprietary products and customers



BREEZE•EASTERN Acquired by



Closing Date: Jan 2016 Price: \$206M Revenue: \$89.8M TEV/EBITDA: n/a

Breeze-Eastern is a global designer and manufacturer of high performance lifting and pulling devices for military and civilian aircraft. The company has established positions on current generations of H-60, CH-53, V-22, CH-47. Major customers include US Govt, Airbus Defense. UTC. and Finmeccanica. Breeze Eastern's customers, product, and served platforms align with other Transdigm portfolio customers.

Breeze-Eastern's served platforms overlap with current portfolio





Acquired by



Closing Date: Sep 2016 Price: \$1,000M Revenue: n/a TEV/EBITDA: 5.9x

Apollo Global Management led a management buyout of Constellis, the product of a series of M&A transactions to combine ACADEMI, Triple Canopy, and Olive Group. Despite a troubled history as the former Blackwater, the outlook for Constellis' advisory, security, and training services to the U.S. Government and foreign militaries is strong as worldwide threats increase and caps for deployed troops persist.

### Ongoing withdrawal from war zones will require contractors to fill gaps



Acquired by



Closing Date: Sep 2016 Price: \$187M Revenue: \$103M TEV/EBITDA: n/a

OSI Systems, after experiencing its own difficulties when it lost a major TSA contract in 2013, acquired competitor American Science and Engineering (AS&E) despite revenues declining 63% from a 2011 peak. ASE cited the increased use of LPTA in detection system procurements for declining revenues, but the combined entity stands to benefit from increasing demand for border security and inspection products.

Competitive and growing market where acquisition increases value



Closing Date: Jan 2017 Price: \$118M Revenue: n/a TEV/EBITDA: n/a

L-3 Security & Detection Systems acquired the Explosives Trace Detection (ETD) business of Implant Sciences, a provider of technology products for the homeland security, semiconductor, and medical device industries. Implant Sciences had filed for Chapter II bankruptcy in October 2016, but was acquired with cash by L-3. L-3 is already a market leader in aviation security and adds two new ETD products.

L-3 expands detection & inspection offering from a bankrupt target







Closing Date: Pending Price: \$789M Revenue: \$297M TEV/EBITDA: n/a

E2v's portfolio of sensors and arrays for the space market, components and subsystems for RF power generation, and semiconductors is highly complementary to Teledyne. From a product perspective, Teledyne's CEO believes that they have minimal overlap and will strengthen their offerings within their core markets. Additionally, e2v will increase Teledyne's exposure to UK and European platforms.

Acquisition builds out product portfolio in core markets of focus



Acquired by



Closing Date: Jan 2017 Price: \$233M Revenue: \$65M TEV/EBITDA: n/a

Curtiss-Wright acquired Teletronics (TTC), a pioneer of airborne test instrumentation equipment with positions on the F-35, F-22, and F/A-18. Most of Curtiss-Wright's defense sales are through subcontracts and TTC provides prime contract exposure on key programs. TTC will operate under the Defense segment, which also includes the company's 2011 acquisition of Acra Control, a commercial test equipment provider.

Provides Curtiss-Wright with broader exposure in military aviation



Acquired by



Closing Date: May 2016 Price: \$300M Revenue: \$100M TEV/EBITDA: 10.7x

Mercury continues to build out "commercial embedded systems" portfolio, competing with other industry leaders such as Curtiss Wright. The acquisition nearly doubles the size of Mercury's RF and Microwave business and will affect all three major operating segments of Mercury. Both strategic buyers and private equity owners have been very active in this space for several years.

Mercury continues to focus on growing micro-solution capabilities



#### **Government Services**



Revenue: \$836M TEV/EBITDA: 8.5×

KBR acquired Wyle Laboratories, a SETA service provider to the DoD, NASA, and other federal agencies, from Court Square Capital Partners. Wyle's expertise includes systems engineering, program management, IT, and test & evaluation which expanded KBR's architectural engineering and construction-heavy portfolio. The acquisition creates a \$2 billion Government Services organization globally.

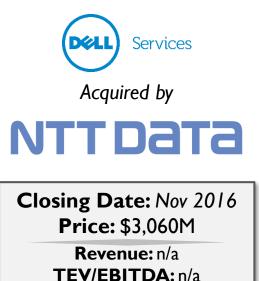
#### KBR adds customers, longer-term Gov't contracts, and SETA services



Closing Date: Dec 2016 Price: \$380M Revenue: \$364M TEV/EBITDA: 8.6x

Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII), the largest naval shipbuilder in the world, acquired Camber from New Mountain Capital. Camber is a SETAservice provider to the Navy, Army, USPS, and Intelligence Community. In a sharp departure from its shipbuilding core, HII acquired a company that works on sensors, simulation, training, CBRNE R&D, high-end IT, and intel analysis in an interesting example of diversification.

Camber acquisition represents an interesting new strategic vector for HII



NTT Data Corp. acquired Dell's services business segment, formerly Perot Systems before being acquired by Dell in 2009 for \$3.9 billion. The acquisition is expected to increase NTT's vertical solutions in key segments such as healthcare & life sciences, financial services, insurance, and government. NTT also said the combination would accelerate innovation and investments in digital, cloud, autonomy, and analytics.

Dell exits services business, creating one of the world's largest IT firms



#### Cybersecurity



Acquired by

### THALES

Closing Date: May 2016 Price: \$400M Revenue: \$70M TEV/EBITDA: n/a

Thales is expanding their e-Security business, diversifying from hardware security modules into data security solutions spanning physical, virtual, and cloud infrastructure. Thales plans to create a comprehensive offering of data protection systems, from the data center to the cloud. Both parties have established relationships with blue chips (Thales-19/20 largest banks; Vormetrics – 17 Fortune 25 companies)

### Thales builds out e-Security business with focus on the cloud



Closing Date: Jun 2016 Price: \$47.7M Revenue: n/a TEV/EBITDA: 0.0x

Oceans Edge Cyber conducts vulnerability research, focusing on protocol analysis, vulnerability analysis, and penetration testing for cyber networks. The move will increase ManTech's ability to service the US govt. including US Cyber Command. Oceans Edge expands presence with critical customers and will bring a cadre of experienced cyber professionals to ManTech's team.

Relatively small acquisition gives ManTech access to CYBERCOM

# **BLUE COAT**

Acquired by



Closing Date: Aug 2016 Price: \$4.65B Revenue: \$598M TEV/EBITDA: see text

Blue Coat represents a major becoming commitment to the industry's largest cyber security company, with the intent of becoming the single go-to source for integrated cyber defense solutions for both internal IT and external cloud solutions. On a non-GAAP reporting basis, this deal represents a 34x multiple on EBITDA. Blue Coat reported net negative cash flow by GAAP reporting standards.

Confirms Symantec's intention to become the largest security player





Closing Date: Feb 2016 Price: \$221M Revenue: n/a TEV/EBITDA: n/a

Cubic Corporation acquired GATR Technologies, a manufacturer of lightweight, deployable SATCOM terminals. The company's inflatable antennas are designed for ground use and are particularly applicable in remote, austere, or harsh weather environments. The patent-protected technology was a step forward in Cubic's strategy of building a C4ISR segment, centered around the GATR and DTECH Labs acquisitions ('14).

Innovative, proprietary product acquisition that is used by SOF



Closing Date: Oct 2016 Price: \$140M Revenue: \$100M TEV/EBITDA: n/a

Chantilly-based The Radiant Group is a provider of geospatial analysis to the NRO, NGA, DIA, USSOCOM, and others. This acquisition combines two industry leaders in geospatial services and expands DigitalGlobe's capabilities by adding smart tasking, collection, processing, and big data analytics. The Radiant Group provides growth into the Intelligence and Special Forces communities with ~80 contract vehicles.

Creates the leading comm'l source of geospatial data for the U.S. Gov't



C4ISR

Acquired by



Closing Date: Nov 2016 Price: n/a Revenue: \$250M\* TEV/EBITDA: n/a

\*Arlington Capital est. of total combination's 2017 revenue

Arlington Capital announced that 3 acquisitions were being combined to create Polaris Alpha, a provider of mission-critical technology, software, solutions to defense and and intelligence EOIR customers. provides big data analytics, C4ISR, and rapid prototyping; Intelligent Software Solutions provides data analysis and visualization; Proteus is an Annapolis Junction-based SIGINT firm.

Strong combination of SIGINT, big data analysis, and visualization



#### **Aerospace Engines**



Closing Date: April & July Price: n/a Revenue: n/a TEV/EBITDA: n/a

After being acquired itself by Blackstone in 2015, MB Aerospace made two acquisitions in 2016 – Centrax Turbine Components (automated machining and grinding of rotating parts) and the Polish operations of VAC Aero Intl. (which provides surface finishing). These acquisitions are a good example of the ongoing consolidation of Tier 2 engine components manufacturers

Lower tier consolidation of the engine market continued in 2016



Acquired by



Closing Date: July 2016 Price: n/a Revenue: n/a TEV/EBITDA: n/a

Continuing the trend of acquisitions in the aeroengine components space, Moeller offers, among other precision machining capabilities, strong capabilities in titanium aluminide. The business was divested by Moeller Manufacturing Company Inc., representing another example of a more diversified business selling its aero-focused segment.

#### Interest remains strong for uniquely positioned aero-engine component suppliers



Closing Date: July 2016 Price: n/a Revenue: n/a TEV/EBITDA: n/a

Part of the attraction of aeroengine businesses is access to aftermarket demand. CTS, an overhaul shop with a focus in CF6 engines, represents direct access to the aftermarket. Though engine OEMs are enhancing their control of the aftermarket, CTS is an example of the opportunities to address the aftermarket beyond component suppliers.

### Engine MRO provides an additional route to access aftermarket demand









Closing Date: May 2016 Price: \$210M Revenue: \$132M TEV/EBITDA: 10.3x

KLX's acquisition of Herndon gives them access to new government customers and depots, with the intention of securing long term for chain supply contracts consumable and management KLX's distribution. Aerospace Solutions Group is recognized as a leading industry supplier of fasteners, consumables, and kitting solutions for both commercial aero and business aviation markets.

Secures KLX's presence in military fastener distribution and supply chain



Acquired by

ODYSSEY INVESTMENT PARTNERS, LLC

Closing Date: Aug 2016 Price: n/a Revenue: n/a TEV/EBITDA: n/a

The acquisition of AeroPrecision from Greenwich AeroGroup reflects confidence in growing demand associated with the military aviation aftermarket. AeroPrecision should benefit from maintenance and upgrade of legacy platforms worldwide. The company has stocking distribution agreements with Honeywell, UTAS, and others, including exclusive numerous agreements for certain products.

Signals ongoing interest from PEfirms in the aero distribution market



Acquired by

### Honeywell

Closing Date: Aug 2016 Price: \$1.5B

> **Revenue:** \$900M **TEV/EBITDA:** n/a

Intelligrated offers supply chain and warehouse automation solutions which Honeywell plans on combining with their workflow performance technology, enabling customers to harness the power of Industrial IoT optimize productivity and to increase fulfillment speed. The expansion into warehouse execution systems will give Honeywell access to established customer base that includes 30 of top 50 US retailers.

Increases distrib.-related products and expands retail customer base





Acquired by



Closing Date: Nov 2016 Price: \$134M Revenue: n/a TEV/EBITDA: n/a

FLIR acquired Prox Dynamics, a Norwegian-based UAS manufacturer. Founded in 2007, the company builds the Black Hornet – a 2 pound, pocket-sized UAS that has up to 25 minutes of endurance. Black Hornet is an ISR platform that utilizes the FLIR's Lepton micro thermal camera.



Rather than supplying, FLIR acquires UAS-maker ahead of procurement

#### LIQUID ROBOTICS

Acquired by



Closing Date: Dec 2016 Price: n/a Revenue: n/a TEV/EBITDA: n/a

After partnering with Liguid Robotics for several years, Boeing acquired the UUV manufacturer in Founded 2016. in 2007 and employing  $\sim 100$  people, Liquid Robotics developed the SHARC system that can transmit data from undersea platforms to satellites.



UUV growth will require increases to communication and data bandwidth



Acquired by

GENERAL DYNAMICS



The largest U.S. Navy submarine manufacturer, General Dynamics, acquired the leading developer of autonomous UUVs. Bluefin has designed over 50 different UUV configurations, including 70 sensors on over 80+ UUVs for mine warfare, anti-submarine warfare, and ISR.



GD expands its market-leading position in undersea platforms





Acquired by

GOLDEN GATE CAPITAL

Closing Date: Sep 2016 Price: n/a Revenue: n/a TEV/EBITDA: n/a

Golden Gate acquired Tronair from Levine Leichtman. Tronair provides an array of ground support equipment for the business aviation market, as well as military and commercial markets. Tronair, a wellrecognized brand itself, is notable for having acquired Eagle tugs and WASP's commercial towbar and tailstand product lines in 2015.



Norwest Equity Partners

Closing Date: May 2016 Price: n/a Revenue: n/a TEV/EBITDA: n/a

West Star Aviation is an independent provider of MRO and related services to the business aviation industry. The nature of the MROoriented business and its locations yields an emphasis on North American markets.





satcom direct.

Closing Date: Pending Price: n/a Revenue: n/a TEV/EBITDA: n/a

TrueNorth provides satellite communication solutions to the business aviation market for both cockpit and cabin connectivity. Satcom Direct emphasized that the acquisition was intended to broaden their avionics product portfolio and accelerate efforts to bring fully integrated communications solutions to customers.

Cockpit data links and Cabin connectivity are areas of emphasis in business aviation, as they are in the commercial transport segment

Growing interest in Business Aviation has often focused on the aftermarket





Acquired by

CAST CHENGDU AEROSPACE SUPERALLOY TECHNOLOGY CO.,LTD

Closing Date: Pending Price: \$401M Revenue: \$184M TEV/EBITDA: n/a

Chendu Aerospace Superalloy Technology (CAST), acquired the UK-based Gardner Aerospace. Gardner produces metallic aeroand various structures engine components; notably, the company was the UK's largest independently owned supplier of metallic aerospace details and subassemblies. Gardner provides its Chinese buyer with new relationships (Airbus, Rolls-Royce) and commercial aircraft programs.

#### Chinese acquisition of aero-supplier, to help domestic and int'l growth



Acquired by

SpeedCast V

Closing Date: Jan 2017 Price: \$425M Revenue: \$363M TEV/EBITDA: 7.0x

Hong Kong-based SpeedCast Int'l acquired CapRock Communications from Harris in one of the largest satellite-related deals of 2016. The acquisition expands SpeedCast's position in the energy and maritime (cruise ships) markets; however, CapRock has a number of U.S. Gov't contracts for mission-critical data & comm. transmissions, including UAS operations so all U.S. contracts will remain with Harris.

Activist investor pushes for a divestiture to a strategic acquirer



Closing Date: May 2016 Price: \$4,386M Revenue: \$2,969M TEV/EBITDA: 20.5x

A Chinese appliance manufacturer acquired KUKA, a German robotics company. Despite concerns about German-owned IP departing for China, no competing European buyer stepped forward. Midea hopes to increase automation in its Chinese factories due to rising labor costs.

However, the U.S. Gov't did have concerns and KUKA's N. American aero business was sold to AIT, an Onex Partners (Canada) company.

Rising labor costs in China prompt a high-priced robotics acquisition

