

PRESS RELEASE

NCTM Studio Legale Associato along with Covèa for the acquisition of 81% of Bipiemme Vita.

The strategic partnership between Banca Popolare di Milano and Covèa, in the insurance banking field, was streamlined yesterday by the signing of an understanding for the handing over of Bipiemme Vita, the company that controls 100% of Bipiemme Assicurazioni.

This transaction is worth Euro 243 million, the price is subject to adjustment.

NCTM Studio Legale Associato has assisted Covèa, a French insurance group. The transaction has been coordinated by Guido Fauda, equity partner, together with Gian Carlo Ciaccia, of counsel, Chiara Langè and Cecilia Palmerio as associates.

NCTM has more than 250 professionals, of whom 42 are equity partners, in six offices in Milan, Rome, Verona, London, Brussels and Shanghai. The firm is widely acknowledged as one of the leading Italian law firms, both in terms of size and on the basis of the quantity and quality of the deals handled. NCTM offers the full range of legal services in all areas of corporate law. It creates specialist expert work groups tailored to meet the specific needs of its clients. It is an independent law firm, known on the Italian market for its innovative and transparent governance.

NCTM is the 2010 European Law Firm of the Year and rated by Financial Times as among the 50 most innovative European law firms.

The firm's approach is summarised in the six basic concepts for the 21st century identified by the great Italian writer Italo Calvino: lightness, quickness, exactitude, visibility, multiplicity and coherence.

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