

Regulations Dutch M&A Awards



**M&A Awards, showcasing excellence in M&A,
corporate finance and private equity.**

MAAwards.nl - MenA.nl





Amstelveen, the Netherlands, September 2020

Dear colleague,

It's that time of the year again; time for the M&A Awards! A moment to take a break from your hectic life as a dealmaker and to reflect with your peers and colleagues on the past twelve months. What have been the highlights? Which deals collapsed? And who will be the stars of the M&A show this year?

You will be surrounded by top-level dealmakers who all have had their successes and failures. This is the night to share, remember and of course celebrate together. Some dealmakers will pay little attention to what's on their dinner plate during the show, because they are in the race for one of the M&A Awards that will be presented.

Only the best professionals, firms and transactions will take home an award. Having said that, you, winner or not, play an important role in the world of mergers and acquisitions. It's you, who shapes the future of our corporate landscape. The M&A Awards are here to honour the transactions and the hard-working professionals who made them happen.

Don't forget to cast your votes. See you at the spectacular 21st edition of the M&A Awards in the Beurs van Berlage in Amsterdam on Thursday 10 December 2020. An event professionals simply cannot afford to miss out.

With kind regards,



Melle Eijckehoff
Directeur



Martise Leemhuis
Head M&A Networks

PS The 2020 M&A Awards is almost sold out. Don't miss out and reserve your table today.

Definitions

1. Regulations: this document defining the nomination process and the determination of the winners.
2. Organization: Alex van Groningen BV, Burgemeester Haspelslaan 63, NL 1181 NB Amstelveen, initiator and organiser of the M&A Awards.
3. M&A League Tables: a database maintained by Alex van Groningen BV listing deals and professionals in the Dutch market that is used in the M&A Awards procedure. Submitting deals, companies and professionals to the M&A League Tables is free of charge. The M&A League Tables is freely accessible in the month October. See www.mena.nl.
4. Deals and professionals categories:
 - a. Large-cap segment: deals with a value larger than 250 million euros.
 - b. Mid-market segment: deals with a value between 50 and 250 million euros.
 - c. Small Cap segment: deals with a value between 5 and 50 million euros.
5. Private equity categories:
 - a. Top segment: funds larger than 1 billion euros.
 - b. Mid-market segment: funds with a value between 100 million and 1 billion euros.
 - c. Lower mid-market segment: funds with a value up to 100 million euros.
6. Experts: people working in M&A, corporate finance and/or private equity in senior positions such as partner or managing director as well as M&A Directors, CFOs and General Counsel of the largest Dutch companies with M&A, Corporate Finance in their portfolio.
7. Panel of judges: Small dedicated groups of experts selected to cast their votes for specific M&A Awards categories.
8. Survey: online research among experts to determine M&A Awards results.
9. Deal: a transaction between multiple companies in which shares are bought and sold and/or funding is being provided.
10. ECM Deal: Completed equity capital markets transaction on Euronext Amsterdam which include among others an initial public offering (IPO), a follow on offering, a convertible bond offering or a delisting.
11. Questionnaire: completed endorsement for the categories Best Small Cap Deal, Best Young M&A Advisor, Best Young Private Equity Manager and Best Young M&A Lawyer describing which deal or talent is nominated.
12. Longlist: a list naming deals, firms or professionals used in the survey. Enabling voters to choose their favorite. Longlists are drafted on the M&A League Tables and the organization's insight.

Award categories and criteria

The M&A Awards are presented in three main award categories. One for deals, one for professionals and one for firms. The following regulations are applicable to the 2020 survey for the M&A Awards.

Categories for deals

1. Best Deal, 2. Best ECM Deal, 3. Best Deal Mid-Cap and 4. Best Small Cap Deal

The best deals are determined by skilled execution, complexity of the transaction, innovative funding, a competitive purchase price and/or an excellent strategy behind the transaction. Evidence of great and authentic leadership, including development of a strong, progressive culture and wider contribution to all stakeholders and society.

Categories for professionals

5. Best Young PE Manager, 6. Best Young M&A Advisor and 7. Best Young M&A Lawyer

The best young and talented professionals (aged up to and including 35) with 4-5 years of experience in the M&A profession and a proven track record of deals on MenA.nl. The ideal candidate makes a strong contribution to the team, reacts quickly and cooperates well with seniors, juniors and clients. He/she is eager to learn, delivers superior performance and is regarded as a rising star in his/her field of expertise.

8. Best M&A Advisor and 9. Best M&A Advisor Mid-Market

The best M&A Advisor ranks high in the MenA.nl league tables. He or she is involved in multiple striking deals. Deep understanding of markets, bespoke service and excellent dealmaking skills characterize the best M&A advisor. It's a people's business and clients are eager to do business with him or her.

10. Best M&A Lawyer and 11. Best M&A Lawyer Mid-Market

The Best M&A Lawyer ranks high in the MenA.nl league tables. His or her remarkable experiences in M&A makes him or her an outstanding and well recognized professional. Industry expertise, strong cross-border abilities, top notch legal knowledge and exceptional negotiating skills make him or her the most sought after lawyer in the market.

12. Best Debt Advisor

The Best Debt Advisor has a deep market insight and an excellent track record varying from acquisition finance to refinancing and restructuring. He or she excels in integrated process management and cooperates smoothly with clients, banks and lawyers.

13. Best Transaction Services Advisor

The Best Transaction Services Advisor identifies and solves all potential problems and contributes to a successful negotiation for the best price and conditions for his or her client. His or her advice is indispensable for a smooth transition and faster realisation of post-merger synergies.

14. Best M&A Tax Advisor

The title Best M&A Tax Advisor is earned by the professional who has an excellent track record and expertise in creating tax savvy deal-structures. He or she is a respected expert and adviser for solving complex tax questions and has a broad view and impact on the legal, commercial and financial aspects of the transaction. Ultimately, the best tax advisor saves millions and millions for his or her clients.

Categories for firms

15. Best M&A Law Firm and 16. Best Dutch M&A Law Boutique

The Best M&A Law Firms ranks high in the MenA.nl league tables. Its elite teams with strong cross-border abilities and in depth industry knowledge are much in demand and indispensable for any successful merger or acquisition.

17. Best M&A House and 18. Best M&A House Mid-Market

The Best M&A House ranks high in the MenA.nl league tables. The firm is widely known as the preferred party by CEOs and investors. The Best Dutch M&A House is a rainmaker and a shaper of the Dutch corporate landscape. It performs beyond expectations.

19. Best Private Equity House, 20. Best Private Equity House Mid-Market, 21. Best Private Equity House Lower Mid-Market, 22. Best Family Office, 23. Best Hands-On Investment firm, 24. Best Venture & Growth Capital Provider

The winners in this category are leading the pack with smart investments that bring sustainable value to all shareholders and stakeholders. The winning firms are involved in landmark deals and are considered a role model for the industry.

25. Best Acquisition Finance Provider

The Best Acquisition Finance Provider is a bank or direct lender best known for its anticipation of clients' interest, outstanding knowledge and ability to combine attractive pricing with the right terms. It's technically very competent teams are exemplary.

26. Best M&A Law firm under Dutch Law

The Best M&A Law Firm under Dutch Law ranks high in the MenA.nl league tables for deals under Dutch Law. Its elite teams with strong cross-border abilities and in-depth industry knowledge are much in demand and indispensable for any successful merger or acquisition, especially in the more internationally oriented deals with international companies headquartered in the Netherlands.

Framework

1. Annually in October, the organization conducts the M&A Awards survey.
2. Based on the M&A League Tables, the organization draws up a list of leading companies in M&A, corporate finance and/or private equity. Added to this list are corporates involved in deals in 2019 and 2020 larger than 50 million euros. Experts working in these companies are invited to take part in the survey.
3. The M&A League Tables is used by the organization to create longlists for the survey and to select and check experts, nominated deals and firms.
4. The Deals must at least have one Dutch component. A company is regarded Dutch if it is listed on the Euronext Amsterdam stock exchange and/or is headquartered in the Netherlands and/or has considerable operational activities in the Netherlands. Exceptions can be made (1) if the editorial board of MenA.nl has reasons to assume a company is registered in the Netherlands for other than operational reasons (e.g. fiscal). (2) If the company uses dual headquarters. (3) if the companies separated the legal and operational headquarters. Exceptions to this rule can be made for Deals in the Award category *Best M&A Law firm under Dutch Law*.
5. Deals need to be announced or closed between 1 November 2019 and 1 November 2020.
6. A deal can only be nominated once for the M&A Awards.
7. A deal and/or professional and/or firm cannot be nominated in multiple categories. In that case the nomination in the category with the most votes will count and the nomination in the other category will be cancelled. The votes will not be lost, but will be added to the score of this deal/professional/firm.
8. Firms and professionals must have been actively involved in multiple mid-market and large-cap deals between 1 November 2019 and 1 November 2020. Foreign firms and professionals can also be nominated, on the condition that they have been active in 2019 and 2020 in the Dutch market.
9. Questionnaires for the categories Best Deal and Best Deal Mid-Cap must be submitted via [MAAwards.nl](https://www.mawards.nl). Only forms received before 9 October 2020 24:00 hours are valid.
10. Questionnaires for the categories Best Small Cap Deal, Best Young M&A Advisor, Best Young Private Equity Manager and Best Young M&A Lawyer must be submitted via [MAAwards.nl](https://www.mawards.nl). Only forms received before 30 October 2020 24:00 hours are valid.
11. All questionnaires must contain a minimum of 500 and a maximum of 1.500 words. By submitting the form, the organization is given permission to publish the pitch forms on, amongst others, [MenA.nl](https://www.mena.nl).
12. The determination of the nominees and the winners of the M&A Awards is supervised by a civil law notary.
13. The M&A Awards are evaluated annually. Subjects of evaluation are amongst others the experts, the regulations and the categories.

Determination nominees and winners

1. In the categories Best Deal and Best Deal Mid-Cap pre-nominations can be submitted via MaAwards.nl. Scores are determined for 75% by a panel of judges and for 25% by votes of visitors of MenA.nl.
2. In the categories Best Small Cap Deal, Best Young M&A Advisor, Best Young Private Equity Manager and Best Young M&A Lawyer pre-nominations can be submitted via MaAwards.nl. Scores are determined for 75% by panels of judges and for 25% by votes of visitors of MenA.nl.
3. In the category Best Small Cap Deal, pitches are presented by the nominees in front of the panel of judges.
4. In the categories Best Young M&A Advisor, Best Young Private Equity Manager and Best Young M&A Lawyer, nominees will present themselves and their pitch in front of a panel of judges.
5. The results in all other categories are exclusively based on the outcome of the survey.
6. The survey outcome is calculated by combining the number of votes and the position in the M&A League Tables (MenA.nl). Each weighing 50%. The number of deals and the value of the deals are taken into account. *
7. Votes of experts who work for the ten largest legal advisors and M&A advisors, sorted by value and amount of deals according to the MenA.nl League Tables and votes cast by CEOs, CFOs, M&A directors, Private Equity managers and general counsel, are counted twice.
8. To prevent a potential bias from votes from experts working at the same company, the judgement of only one expert per company will be taken into account in the survey. Unless it is a larger company which offers multiple disciplines and services, such as acquisition advice, transaction services, tax advice or debt advisory.
9. If multiple experts in the same discipline and from the same company participate in the survey, only the rating of the expert with the most completed survey will be taken into account. If two experts have filled in the questionnaire equally, only the rating of the most senior expert will be taken into account.
10. Experts are allowed to nominate multiple professionals or deals in one category.
11. If an expert votes for a firm he or she is currently working for or votes on him- or herself, the vote is declared invalid.
12. The organization verifies if all questionnaires, votes and nominations meet the requirements as stipulated in these regulations. If needed, endorsements, votes and nominations are declared invalid. If the organization decides that a category has not received enough votes or the number of endorsements is lower than 3, the organization withdraws the category.
13. If multiple persons, deals and/or companies receive the same amount of votes, the organization decides who to nominate and/ or who will win.

** Explication: The first step is to calculate points based on the votes from experts. Suppose the nominee holds position 1 based on the number of votes. This gives $11 - 1$ (position) = 10 points. The second step is to calculate points based on the M&A League Tables. Suppose the nominee holds position 1 in the M&A League Tables based on the number of deals done and position 3 based on the total deal value of deals done. The score in the league tables is $(11 - 1) * 50\% + (11 - 3) * 50\% = 9$. The third step is to combine the points from the votes and the M&A League Tables. The total score is $(10 + 9) * 50\% = 9,5$.*

Announcement of results

1. Nominees receive a confirmation of their nomination by e-mail, via announcements on MAAwards.nl, MenA.nl, CFO.nl and FM.nl as well as via media such as M&A Magazine and CFO Magazine and Het Financieele Dagblad.
2. A description is made of nominated deals, companies and professionals. This description will be used in various publications. Nominees are asked to submit the requested information with regards to the deal (particulars, size, etc.). These descriptions will be revised and then published on MenA.nl. If the organization does not receive a description, it will draft up a text at its sole discretion.
3. All nominees and winners receive a media kit containing the logo of the M&A Awards, which they can use in their communication.
4. The winners will be announced during the exclusive gala dinner on the night of the M&A Awards 2020 on 10 December.

Winners 2019-2000

Exemplifying excellence in M&A, corporate finance and private equity.

- **Best Deal:** ATHORA - VIVAT - NN (2019), The Carlyle Group & GIC - AkzoNobel Specialty Chemicals (2018), Toyota Industries - Vanderlande Industries (2017), Qualcomm - NXO (2016), Ahold - Delhaize (2015), Ziggo - Liberty Global (2014), JAB - D.E. Master Blenders (2013), ASML - Intel, Samsung, TSMC (2012), 3i - Action (2011), Bencis - Catalpa (2010), Jumbo Supermarkten - Super de Boer (2009), Nederlandse Staat - Fortis (2008), AkzoNobel - ICI (2007), F. van Lanschot bankiers - Kempen & Co (2006), ABN AMRO - Antonveneta (2005), Heineken - BBAG (2003), Aalberts Industries - Yorkshire Fittings (2002), Buhrmann - Samas Groep Office Division (2001), Numico - Rexall Sundown (2000)
- **Best Deal Mid-Cap:** Van Leeuw - Benteler (2019), Nuts Groep - Nederlandse Energie Maatschappij (2018), Ergon Capital Partners - Keesing Media Group (2017), Parcom Capital - Simpel (2016), Egeria - Imtech Traffic & Infra (2015), Flamco - Aalberts Industries (2014), IK Investment Partners - Ampelmann (2013), AAC Capital Partners - Salad Signature (2012), NPM & Management - Kiwa (2011)
- **Best ECM Deal:** IPO Adyen (2018), IPO VolkerWessels (2017), IPO Takeaway.com (2016), IPO Grandvision (2015), IPO IMCD (2014)
- **Best Small Cap Deal:** Companjen Family - Bakker Bart (2019), KPN - QSight IT (2018), Active Capital Company - Arnold Suhr (2017), Orange - Login Consultants (2016), Scheybeeck Investments - S-P-S (2015), Salarisprofs - Manpower (2014)
- **Best M&A Advisor:** Bastiaan Vaandrager - Rothschild (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2013, 2010), Maurits Duynstee, ING (2015, 2012, 2009), Hugo Peek - ABN AMRO (2014), Rob Oudman - Leonardo & Co (2011), Wouter Han - Lazard (2008), Rob Oudman - BNP Paribas (2007), Bob Elfring - Lehman Brothers (2006), Maarten Wolleswinkel - Oaklins Netherlands (2005), Paul Nielen - Nielen van Schaik (2004)
- **Best M&A Advisor Mid-Market:** Eric Wijs - Lincoln International (2019, 2018, 2016), Matthew Gooch - William Blair (2017), Robert Specken - ING Bank (2015), Jorn van Etten - ABN AMRO (2014), Onno Sloterdijk - KPMG (2013, 2012, 2009, 2008, 2007), Rob van der Laan - Boer & Croon (2011), Maarten Wolleswinkel - Oaklins Netherlands (2010), Yme van der Wal - Phidelpi (2006)
- **Best M&A Lawyer:** Leo Groothuis - NauthaDutilh (2019), Arne Grimme - De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek (2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013), Jan Louis Burggraaf - Allen & Overy (2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004), Karine Kodde - Allen & Overy (2008)

- **Best M&A Lawyer Mid-Market:** Dennis de Breij - DeBreij (2019), Bram Caudri - Houthoff (2018), Matthijs Ingen-Housz - INGEN HOUSZ (2017), Luc Habets - Lexence (2016), Karine Kodde - Allen & Overy (2015), Herman Kaemingk - Loyens & Loeff (2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2007, 2006), Femke Bierman - Allen & Overy (2008)
- **Best Debt Advisor:** Daan Bouwman - Nielen Schuman (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012), Paul Nielen - Nielen Schuman (2011), Robert Schuman - Nielen Schuman (2010)
- **Best Transaction Services Advisor:** Remco van Daal - PwC (2019), Joost Siemensma - SINCERIUS (2018), Hans Dullaert - PwC (2017), Ad Veken - Deloitte (2016, 2015, 2014, 2010, 2008), Ewald van Hamersveld - KPMG (2013, 2012, 2011), Maurice Dercks - Deloitte (2009), Cornelis Smaal - PwC (2007), Peter van Mierlo - PwC (2006, 2005)
- **Best M&A Tax Advisor:** Rowdy Schouten - JSA Tax (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2011), Oscar Janssen - JSA Tax (2012), Arthur Goedkoop - Deloitte (2010), Guido Derckx - Loyens & Loeff (2009, 2004), Remko Franssen - Deloitte (2008), Oscar Kinders - PwC (2007 and 2006), Olaf van der Donk - Allen & Overy (2005)
- **Best Young M&A Lawyer:** Olivier Valk - Allen & Overy (2019), Richard Witvliet - Houthoff (2018)
- **Best Young M&A Advisor:** William Jones - Rabobank (2019), Myrthe van Bijsterveld - Rabobank (2018)
- **Best Young Private Equity Manager:** Ronald Kemmeren - HPE Growth (2019)
- **Best Transaction Services Advisor Mid-Market:** Remco van Daal - PwC (2017, 2016), Arnoud Oltmans - Deloitte (2015, 2014), Niek Kolkman - KPMG (2013)
- **Best M&A House Dutch Market:** Rothschild (2018), ING Bank (2019, 2017, 2016 and 2015)
- **Best Dutch M&A Boutique:** Rothschild (2017), Nielen Schuman (2016), Leonardo & Co (2015)
- **Best Dutch M&A Law Firm:** Allen & Overy (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016), De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek (2015)
- **Best Dutch M&A Law Boutique:** Stek (2018), De Breij (2019, 2017, 2015), Vriman M&A Lawyers (2016)
- **Best Acquisition Finance Provider:** ING Bank (2019, 2018)
- **Best Venture & Growth Capital Provider:** Prime Ventures (2019, 2018)
- **Best Hands-On Investment Firm:** Torqx (2019), Standard Investment (2018)
- **Best Family Office:** NPM Capital (2019, 2018)
- **Best Private Equity House Lower Mid-Market:** Standard Investment (2019), AAC Capital (2018)
- **Best Private Equity House Mid-Market:** Parcom Capital (2019), Bencis Capital Partners (2018)
- **Best Private Equity House:** Waterland Private Equity (2019, 2018)
- **Best Young Talent:** Niels Jonker, Rabobank (2017), Peter de Kluijver, Rabobank (2016), Sabine Schoute, Loyens & Loeff (2015), Remco Goes, Deloitte (2014), Laura de Jong, AKD (2013)
- **Best Buy Out Manager:** Jim Vermeule - DentConnect (2017), René Moos, - Basic-Fit (2016), David de Buck - CEO Intertrust (2015), José Duarte - UNIT4 (2014), Jan van der Tempel - Ampelmann (2013), Erik Bras - Salad Signature (2012), Matthijs van der Lely - Selexyz (2010), Daniël Ropers - Bol.com (2009), Maria van der Sluijs-Plantz - TMF Group (2008), Ronald van Zetten - HEMA (2007), Huub van Doorne, Lucas Bols (2006), Marc Staal, Borstlap (2005), Ed Hamming, Vendex-KBB (2004), Theo Willemsen - Raet (2003)
- **Best Valuator:** Wim Holterman, PwC (2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2012, 2011, 2010), Jeroen Weimer, KPMG (2013 and 2008), Henk Oosterhout, Duff & Phelps (2009)
- **Best Equity Capital Markets Banker:** Pim Kist, ING Bank (2017), Chris van Schuppen, ABN AMRO (2016, 2015), Willem-Jan Meijer, ING (2014)

- **Best Equity Capital Markets Lawyer:** Tim Stevens, Allen & Overy (2017), Pieter Schütte, Stibbe (2016, 2015), Jan Willem Hoevers, De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek (2014)
- **Best Banking and Finance Lawyer:** Jelle Hofland, Clifford Chance (2017), Femke Bierman, Allen & Overy (2016, 2015)
- **Best General Counsel:** Lonneke de Beer, SHV Holdings (2017), Corneel Ryde, Intertrust Group (2016, 2015), Jan Pieter Witsen Elias, Ziggo (2014)
- **Best Post Merger Integration Advisor:** Harold de Bruijn - KPMG (2014), Jasper Knol Bruins, Deloitte (2013 and 2012)
- **Best PR Advisor:** Uneke Dekkers, CFF Communications (2017), Frans van der Grint, Hill+Knowlton Strategies (2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012), Ingo Heijnen, Hill+Knowlton Strategies (2011, 2010), José Tijssen, CFF Communications (2009, 2008)
- **Best Restructuring Advisor:** Peter Wolterman - PwC (2017, 2015, 2014, 2013), Stefaan Vansteenkiste, Alvarez & Marsal (2016)
- **Best Private Equity Manager:** Pieter de Jong - 3i (2017, 2016, 2015), Bram Grimmelt - Advent International (2014), Hugo van Berckel - CVC Capital Partners (2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2007), Lex Douze, Waterland Private Equity (2009), Joost Verbeek, Rabo Private Equity (2008), Rob Thielen - Waterland (2006), Boudewijn Molenaar - Gilde (2005), Alexander van Wassenaer - AlpInvest (2004)
- **Best Private Equity Manager Mid-Market:** Zoran van Gessel, Bencis Capital Partners (2017, 2012, 2010 and 2008), Bas Glas, Gilde Equity Management (2016), Perry Bos - Nordian Capital Partners (2015, 2014), Remko Hilhorst - IK Investment Partners (2013), , Bob Kramer, ABN AMRO Participaties (2011), Menno van der Meer, Bencis Capital Partners (2009), Gerhard Nordemann, Gilde Investment Management (2007)
- **Best M&A Director:** Pim Berendsen, PostNL (2017), Stewart McCrone, Philips (2016), Marc Koster - Heineken (2015, 2014), Ivo Lurvink, ING Groep (2013 and 2012), James Nolan, Philips (2011)
- **Best Limited Partner:** Eric-Jan Vink, PGGM (2017, 2016), Ruulke Bagijn, PGGM (2015), Eric-Jan Vink, PGGM (2014)
- **Best Investment Manager Family Office:** Taco Rietveld - HB Capital (2017), Stef Koning - HB Capital (2016, 2014), Jaap van Wiechen - HAL Investments (2015)
- **Best Venture Capital Manager:** Sake Bosch - Prime Ventures (2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011)
- **Best Acquisition Finance Banker:** Franck de Lange, ABN AMRO (2017), Laetitia Thate, ING Bank (2016), Laetitia Thate, ING Bank (2015), Marin Boon, Rabobank (2014, 2013, 2012, 2011), Diederik Kolfshoten, Deutsche Bank (2010), Mark Milders, ING (2009), Riëlla van de Vondervoort, Bank of Scotland (2008, 2007), Erwin de Jong, ABN AMRO (2006, 2004)
- **Best Acquisition Finance Banker Mid-Market:** Twan Geurts, Rabobank (2008 and 2007), Alexander Olgers, F. van Lanschot Bankiers (2006)



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