

Press Release

GOLTSBLAT BLP CONTINUES TO LEAD THE MARKET IN DEALS/M&A

Goltsblat BLP, the Russian practice of international law firm Berwin Leighton Paisner (BLP), retains top positions among law firms on the Russian M&A market.

Three international sources published their research results last week, all placing Goltsblat BLP in the top ranks. The firm was awarded Tier 2 ranking for M&A deals by the **International Financial Law Review**, placed third in deal count after the third quarter of 2016 by **Mergermarket**, and shortlisted for **M&A Law Firm of the Year** in Russia by M&A Atlas Awards. **Andrey Goltsblat**, Managing Partner of Goltsblat BLP, and **Anton Sitnikov**, Partner, Head of Corporate/M&A, are again named as Leading Lawyers by **IFLR**. The guide also recommends **Matvey Kaploukhiy**, Partner, Corporate/M&A, as an M&A lawyer.

Behind these high positions are landmark transactions: the firm's Corporate/M&A partners and associates advised the **Federal Agency for State Property Management (Rosimuschestvo)** on a Sheremetyevo International Airport shareholders' agreement, supported Russia's biggest car dealer **Rolf Group** in its merger with Pelican Auto, and advised **Itella Russia** on its acquisition of MaxiPost. Other high-level business included advising a **private Russian investor** on purchasing hotels in Austria and giving advice on the sale of a bakery in the Moscow Region.

You might remember that Goltsblat BLP's performance has received other accolades this year from leading international M&A publications: in May and July, **Mergermarket** put the firm among the three market leaders and, in August, the firm topped **Mergers.ru** ranking in terms of the number of M&A deals completed in the first six months of 2016.

Anton Sitnikov, Partner, Head of Corporate/M&A, Goltsblat BLP, says: *"We are, of course, very happy with these results and are grateful to the rating providers for their professionalism and this high score. It has been a challenging year on the M&A market, but we still delivered considerable growth in terms of completed deals against 2015. We would like to thank our clients for the trust they place in our firm and we also thank all colleagues from both the Corporate and other practices for their first-rate support and efficiency."*

Our international M&A team, mostly based in London and Moscow, has extensive experience with complex deals, including multi-jurisdictional projects. Corporate Practice lawyers are also available in our offices in Abu Dhabi, Berlin, Brussels, Dubai, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Paris, Beijing, Tel Aviv, Singapore and Yangon. Our corporate team includes competition and antitrust, finance and international tax specialists and this cross-functional approach enables us to address our clients' individual needs and specific project requirements in the most efficient way. This gives us a leading edge over other law firms and makes our service offering stand apart in terms of quality.

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Goltsblat BLP summary

Goltsblat BLP is the Russian practice of Berwin Leighton Paisner (BLP), a leading international law firm headquartered in London, with its offices operating in major commercial and financial centres throughout the world – Moscow, Abu Dhabi, Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Dubai, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Paris, Singapore, Tel Aviv and Yangon.

As many as 100 lawyers qualified in Russian, English and US law are based in Goltsblat BLP's office in Moscow, with lawyers in BLP's international offices numbering over 1000.

Goltsblat BLP's international team provides transactional support for inbound and outbound investments by Russian and international clients, offers legal support for corporate, M&A, real estate and banking and finance transactions, dispute resolution, infrastructure and other complex projects and represents its clients on multi-jurisdiction matters.

Among Goltsblat BLP's clients are over 1300 companies, including major multinational investors operating in Russia (including 37 Fortune 500 clients), Russian and international banks and financial institutions and Russian industry-leading companies.

Goltsblat BLP is the winner of 25 national and international awards over the past five years, including:

Russia Law Firm of the Year – Chambers Europe Awards 2015 and shortlisted for 2016;

International Law Firm of the Year – The Lawyer European Awards 2014 and shortlisted in 2015; Legal Business Awards 2010 / Legal 500 and shortlisted in 2015, 2016;

Client Service Law Firm of the Year – Chambers Europe Awards 2014 and 2010;

A Top-3 major international law firm in Russia for two years in a row (2015 and 2016) – the national ranking by the prestigious Russian business publication Kommersant;

A Top-3 international law firm in Russia by income and by income per lawyer – Pravo.ru 2015 national ranking.

Full Service Law Firm of the Year – Annual ACQ Country Awards 2011;

Law Firm of the Year for Russia – Finance Monthly Law Awards 2011;

Innovation in International Expansion – Financial Times Innovative Lawyer Awards 2011 (shortlisted);

Best Law Firm in Russia – ILO Client Choice Awards 2010.