Leading from the front
Eversheds Sutherland’s
Global Corporate Team

Cutting through market instability - advice you can trust

Many would agree that 2018 was a mixed year for M&A, particularly in relation to cross-border and mid-market deals. The first half of 2018 was busy across all sectors, but particularly strong in TMT, energy and industrials. While deal volume held up well for Eversheds Sutherland, the market dipped in the second half of the year against a backdrop of geo-political tensions including US-China trade sanctions, EU concerns over Italy’s budget deficit as well as Brexit.

There continued to be significant amounts of equity and debt in the market, with financial sponsors having money to invest. Private equity sponsors continued to be active both with regard to buyouts and exits. It should also be noted that we saw a continued increase in warranties and indemnities insurance as well as an increase in the use of the locked box approach to determining the price of a target.

Given the geo-political challenges, compounded by the draining of liquidity by central banks and higher interest rates, we believe that 2019 will be a year characterized by increased deal execution risk. This risk increases the importance of advisors proactively driving deals effectively and finding solutions to deal issues for clients, whether on the buy-side or sell-side. However, an ongoing driver for deals in the current year will be the challenge of technological disruption and business transformation.

As noted above, 2018 was a strong year for our corporate team - building again on our ranking in the M&A league tables we have moved from 21st in 2016 to 13th in 2018 in terms of global deal volume.*

Our growth globally has presented many opportunities to support you in the locations you do business. We look forward to further building our relationships into 2019 and beyond.

The Eversheds Sutherland team was instrumental in the structuring and execution of this transaction. The team’s ability, skills and attitude made it possible for us to execute a complex deal in record time.

“We now have people in the business asking for help from the same lawyers, which is a good indicator as to Eversheds Sutherland’s performance in this deal.”

Lars Sjobring, General Counsel, Autoliv

Eversheds Sutherland LLP is part of a global legal practice, operating through various separate and distinct legal entities, under Eversheds Sutherland. For a full description of the structure and a list of offices, please visit www.evershedssutherland.com.