



**SAGENT ADVISORS AND SIGNAL HILL COMBINE TO FORM DCS ADVISORY, A GLOBAL M&A ADVISORY FIRM AND PART OF DAIWA SECURITIES GROUP**

*TOKYO, JAPAN, March 6, 2018* – Daiwa Securities Group Inc. is pleased to announce the formation of DCS Advisory. DCS Advisory combines the operations of Sagent Advisors and Signal Hill to form a new North America-based advisory firm that will focus on providing M&A advice and private capital raising for companies powering the growth economy.

DCS Advisory will operate out of seven offices in the US including Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, New York, Northern Virginia and San Francisco and two offices in India, Bangalore and Mumbai. The firm is led by senior bankers with deep sector knowledge over a broad span of industries including Aerospace, Defense & Government Services, Business and Tech-Enabled Services, Industrials, Consumer, Retail and Leisure, Media and Telecom, and Technology and Software. As part of the Daiwa Securities Group, DCS Advisory (North America) in combination with DC Advisory (Europe), Daiwa Securities Group, Inc. (Asia), and other alliance partners, will have more than 900 professionals in 37 offices throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia.

DCS Advisory will be led by an Operating Committee consisting of leadership from each of Sagent's and Signal Hill's management. Scott Wieler, the Founder and Chairman of Signal Hill, will serve as Chairman; Eric Edmondson, a Managing Director of Signal Hill, will serve as Vice Chairman; and Joe Donohue and Bill Kohr, Sagent's Co-CEOs, will serve as Co-Presidents.

"We congratulate the DCS Advisory team on a successful launch. DCS Advisory is an important milestone in our goal of expanding our company's M&A advisory business in North America and beyond. The firm will be a complementary fit with our operations across Asia and Europe. Expanding our company's M&A advisory business continues to be core to our strategic growth. Cross-border M&A involving Japanese corporates has grown significantly over the past 10 years and we believe DCS Advisory will bolster our global advisory capabilities across the Asian, European and North American markets," said Toshihiro Matsui, Head of Daiwa's Global Investment Banking Division.

"The launch of DCS Advisory marks the entrance of a scaled player in the market, one with all the benefits of well-established heritage and experience alongside a deepened suite of domain expertise. With our combined capabilities, we can meet clients' demands and exceed their expectations like no other advisory firm," said Mr. Wieler.

"What has made this combination so successful is our core common culture that prioritizes client service above all else. As DCS Advisory we are well-positioned to advise clients across nearly all sectors of the economy with an even greater global reach, and we're excited for the possibilities afforded by our expanded team," said Mr. Donohue and Mr. Kohr.

"The launch of DCS Advisory is the culmination of our strengthening cross-border partnership. Our clients have already benefited from our firms' close relationship and becoming fully aligned through the Daiwa global platform provides even greater opportunities with deepened industry expertise. We look forward to continuing the momentum and achieving even more together," said Richard Madden, CEO of DC dvisory, UK.

### **About DCS Advisory**

DCS Advisory LLC is a leading investment bank specializing in M&A and private capital raising. DCS Advisory is a wholly owned subsidiary of Daiwa Capital Markets America Holdings Inc. and is an indirect subsidiary of Daiwa Securities Group Inc. Along with sister company DC Advisory, other Daiwa affiliates, and alliance partners, DCS Advisory is part of an established global brand with more than 900 professionals in 37 offices throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia. DCS Advisory covers a broad range of industries including Aerospace, Defense & Government Services, Business and Tech-Enabled Services, Industrials, Consumer, Retail and Leisure, Media and Telecom, and Technology and Software. For more information please visit [www.dcsadvisory.com](http://www.dcsadvisory.com).

### **About Daiwa Securities Group Inc.**

Daiwa is one of the leading, comprehensive financial service firms in Asia with a 115-year history. It provides a wide range of products and services to individual investors, primarily in Japan, as well as to corporations, financial institutions, governments, municipalities and governmental agencies both inside and outside of Japan. It conducts its business in four segments: the Retail Division, the Wholesale Division, which comprises of Global Markets and Global Investment Banking, the Asset Management Division and the Investment Division.

### **About DC Advisory**

DC Advisory is a leading corporate finance advisor with specific expertise in cross-border transactions. As a subsidiary of Daiwa Capital Markets, the investment banking arm of Japan's Daiwa Securities Group, and alongside sister company DCS Advisory in North America, DC Advisory is part of an established global brand with more than 900 professionals in 37 offices throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas. DC Advisory provides tailored independent advice on M&A, debt raisings and restructurings. For more information please visit [www.dcsadvisory.com](http://www.dcsadvisory.com).