



THE M&A FORUM

ACHIEVE BETTER DEALS IN VOLATILE TIMES

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
In-person and virtual: New York, USA
A Corporate Secretary and IR Magazine Event

AGENDA

All times are in Eastern Time (ET)

8.30 am **Registration opens**

8.55 am **Welcome to the M&A Forum 2022**

Steve Wade, head of event content, *IR Magazine & Corporate Secretary*

9.00 am **How to drive value through M&A in 2023**

In a time of falling valuations and rising interest rates, our opening session focuses on the outlook for M&A activity during the current economic environment and how companies can adapt their strategic approach to M&A value creation.

- Discover how attitudes toward risk changed in this environment and the impact on deal teams
- Debate which types of deals generate better shareholder returns at a time of rising funding costs and falling valuations
- Understand the impact of the current economic environment on deal sourcing
- Discover how changing attitudes toward geopolitical risk are impacting M&A activity

Moderator: Steven Wade, head of event content, *Corporate Secretary and IR Magazine*

9.45 am **Improving board oversight on M&A activity**

This session looks at how companies can support their board's ability to make informed decisions across all aspects of the deal cycle, from strategy to diligence and implementation.

- Discuss the scope of the board's role in corporate M&A
- Learn about the trends that impact oversight on M&A activities
- Understand how best to support your board across the entire deal life cycle

Moderator: Ben Maiden, editor-at-large, *Corporate Secretary*

10.30 am **Morning networking break**

11.00 am **Adapting to accelerating due-diligence approaches**

Due diligence is one of the most time-consuming aspects of M&A, but many predict that it is also an aspect that can see the most acceleration in the future. This session discusses how to improve due-diligence efforts and increase efficiency.

- Discuss the emerging risks for deal success in the current environment
- Debate how best to price risk into deals in the current environment
- Learn how to streamline the due-diligence process while having important input from different business functions

Moderator: Steve Wade, head of event content, *IR Magazine & Corporate Secretary*

11.45 am **Best practices when articulating deal value to shareholders**

Getting shareholders on board with your M&A activity is critical to success, but sentiment around deals is changing. Join this session to learn how best to engage shareholders in the current environment.

- Hear best practices on building shareholder support for deals
- Ensure certainty of close by understanding how best to articulate the strategic value of a deal
- Understand shareholder concerns around M&A given the macro backdrop
- Discuss how to adapt your messaging in today's environment

Moderator: Laurence Taylor, senior conference producer, *IR Magazine & Corporate Secretary*

12.30 pm **Lunch**

1.30 pm **Managing cyber-security risk and maximizing automation opportunities in M&A**

An ever-increasing reliance on digital infrastructure presents risks and opportunities for deal teams. This session looks at both the benefits and dangers M&A faces from evolving technology and how to manage technology in the deal process effectively.

- Understand how cybersecurity vulnerabilities can pose risks to a deal's value in both the short and long term
- Learn how best to conduct cyber-risk analysis during your due diligence
- Discover how technology is being increasingly used to improve deal insight and efficiency

Moderator: Laurence Taylor, senior conference producer, *IR Magazine & Corporate Secretary*

2.15 pm **How companies utilize ESG to identify M&A risks and opportunities**

Corporate purpose is an emergent issue that impacts M&A, companies are setting public carbon targets, and the everchanging impact on how teams work has created a perfect storm of challenges for M&A deals. We examine how companies can better identify non-financial risks

- Learn about the emerging human capital, DEI and company culture factors impacting M&A
- Understand how to identify issues in ESG target alignment
- Discuss how to use ESG for enhanced integration success

Moderator: Ben Maiden, editor-at-large, *Corporate Secretary*

3.00 pm **Integration: Realizing value through post-merger integration**

Once a deal is signed, integration is where true value will be achieved or lost. In this session, we look at how to maximize value following a corporate transaction and communicate M&A impact with your stakeholders.

- Setting your new board up for effective oversight
- Hear top tips for introducing management to the market post-deal

- Discover how best to deliver a clear message to the market following a deal
- The importance of people management after a corporate transaction

Moderator: Steve Wade, head of event content, *IR Magazine* and *Corporate Secretary*

3.45 pm **Champagne roundtables: Exchange ideas with your peers in highly interactive roundtable discussions**

Roundtable leaders

Ben Maiden, editor-at-large, *Corporate Secretary*

Laurence Taylor, senior conference producer, *IR Magazine* and *Corporate Secretary*

Steve Wade, head of event content, *IR Magazine* and *Corporate Secretary*

4.30 pm **Closing remarks**

Steve Wade, head of event content, *IR Magazine* and *Corporate Secretary*

4.45 pm **End of conference**