



Navis Acquires Controlling Stake in Modern Star, Australia's Leading Education Resource Provider

SYDNEY, Thursday, October 9, 2014 - Navis Capital Partners ("Navis") has completed an investment in privately held Modern Star Pty Limited ("Modern Star"; "Company"), Australia's leading B2B distributor of education resources to early childhood centres and schools.

Navis acquired a majority equity stake in Modern Star with the terms of the transaction not disclosed. Modern Star's key senior management will remain as shareholders and continue to lead the business with a focus on expanding the Company's market share in the highly fragmented Australian market. As the industry consolidates, Modern Star is well placed to expand both organically, and via acquisition, by leveraging its strong brand and robust online presence, together with its deep market penetration.

Philip Latham, a senior partner of Navis commented "Modern Star builds upon Navis's strong sector experience in education, joining Guardian Early Learning, SEGi University Group, Wall Street Institute and ITM Business School in the Navis portfolio. The Company's brands have a long and rich heritage that resonates with school teachers dating back to the 1960s and we are looking forward to working with the management team to continue its strong earnings trajectory domestically and also opening up growth avenues in South East Asia, where Navis has deep experience."

Navis invested in Guardian Early Learning, a leading Australian operator of childcare centres, in September 2013.

Jim Craddock, CEO of Modern Star commented: "We are excited about the next phase of our development and partnership with Navis. Our new partnership with Navis adds financial strength and allows us to take advantage of growth opportunities that are available in new geographies and supplement organic growth with acquisitions where it enables a step-change in market share in particular subject verticals."

Navis, which manages approximately US\$5 billion in equity capital, has a long and proven track record in Asian private equity, with over 60 control transactions completed since its establishment in 1998.

About Navis Capital Partners

Founded in 1998, Navis focuses on private and public equity investments primarily in and around Southeast Asia. Navis contributes both capital and management expertise to a limited number of well-positioned companies with the objective of directing strategic, operational and financial improvements. Navis has one of the largest private equity professional teams in Asia, comprising over 60 individuals, supported by over 30 administrative staff, in eight offices across the region.

About Modern Star Pty Ltd

Modern Star is Australia & New Zealand's leading supplier of education resources to early childhood centres and primary schools. It is also the leading supplier of educational toys to specialty toy retailers (B2B retailing). The Company's brands have a long and rich heritage that resonates with school teachers dating back to the 1960s.

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