



**Press Release**

5 November 2012

## **Hamilton Bradshaw announces its investment in SF Group**

**Hamilton Bradshaw Private Equity (HBPE) invests in SF Group, the largest independent financial recruitment company in the Midlands & North West with a turnover of £12.5M**



*Tristan Ramus, James Caan, Sheba Karamat, Tony Minnis & Adam Fletcher*

Hamilton Bradshaw has today announced that it has provided SF Group with funding to back a Management Buy-out, led by Managing Director, Tony Minnis. Prior to joining SF Group in 2001, Tony was Finance Director with Northern Foods Plc. Minnis has been instrumental in guiding the business through the recession and steering the company through an impressive recovery.

Minnis said, "SF Group with Hamilton Bradshaw is the beginning of a new and exciting chapter for us. The expertise and investment provided by our new board members as well as access to the HB Group's significant knowledge sharing capabilities will give us a superior platform from which to grow."

SF Group employs 90 staff, headquartered in Nottingham with regional hubs in Manchester and Birmingham. It began as a specialist recruitment provider of Finance and Accounting professionals, either in a permanent capacity or to fulfil temporary contract assignments. More recently the

business has further diversified into HR, Supply-Chain, Logistics, Procurement, Marketing and Sales. Since the founding of the business in 1997 by Rob Yong, SF Group has been recognised in the market as a leading 'regional' specialist.

On behalf of Hamilton Bradshaw the deal was led by Adam Fletcher, Investment Director, supported by Tristan Ramus, Deepak Jalan and former BBC Dragon, James Caan. Fletcher commented, "SF Group is a quality business with a highly experienced and loyal management and sales team, representing an exciting opportunity for growth. Furthermore, this is a key acquisition for the HB Group, building upon our professional staffing portfolio and providing a sound footing for further expansion within the financial recruitment sector."

Tristan Ramus, Managing Director of HBPE, asserts the decision to invest in SF Group promises to be highly beneficial to both parties: "Tony and his team have impressed throughout the acquisition process and will form a fantastic addition to the group. With ambitious leaders, unrivalled market knowledge and strong financials, I have positive expectations for the business and the development of the careers for the consultants working within it."

The final word from James Caan, Founder and Chairman of Hamilton Bradshaw: "This is both a considered and strategic transaction for HB. Accountancy and Professional Services are key markets for us and complement our existing portfolio covering 28 sectors. I am very excited by our investment in the SF Group and see this business growing net fee income to £10m and staff to 110 within the next 3 years, making this a very significant move for the Group."

Ends.

**About Hamilton Bradshaw** [www.hbhumancapital.com](http://www.hbhumancapital.com)

Founded and chaired by James Caan, Hamilton Bradshaw Private Equity launched in 2004. Its portfolio focuses primarily on the service sector, in particular recruitment, and currently invests in over 30 businesses. Today, HB is one of the world's Top 30 Recruitment companies, active in 28 market sectors, with over 800 staff and a turnover in excess of £500 million. Under the guidance of Caan, HB has won a reputation for investing in people with passion, operating with the utmost integrity and adding real value to every business they invest in.

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