

Matthias Gerhardt named as Group Director Corporate Development at GFKL Lowell

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Matthias Gerhardt (43) has been appointed to the newly created position of Group Director Corporate Development at GFKL Lowell, based in Essen. Matthias and his team will focus upon mergers and acquisitions by identifying further opportunities for growth in the current core markets of the DACH region and the UK, as well as other European countries. Additionally, his team will manage the Group's strategic projects, the relationship with the Group's investors and be the initial contact for the capital markets.

The work of Matthias Gerhardt and his team will also make a significant contribution to the GFKL Lowell Group's efforts to strengthen its position as one of Europe's leading credit management service providers.

Matthias Gerhardt is a member of the DACH Region Executive Board, and reports directly to Group Chief Finance Officer Colin Storrar. He is joining GFKL Lowell from Arvato Financial Solutions (Bertelsmann), where he held an equivalent position.

Gerhardt, a European Business School graduate, was previously the Head of Corporate Finance Service Line at Innovalue Management Advisors (now EY Innovalue), and worked for the Financial Institutions Group of Credit Suisse in both Frankfurt and London.

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Notes to Editors:

GFKL Lowell

The GFKL Lowell Group was created in October 2015 following the merger of German and UK market leaders GFKL and the Lowell Group. This union created one of the largest credit management companies in Europe. It benefits from the backing of global investment company Permira Funds and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP).

The Group's experience, expertise and core strengths in data analytics and operational efficiency underpin its vision to be the most reputable and trusted partner in the European credit management sector.

In April 2016 the Group made its first acquisition of Austrian Third Party Collections (3PC) specialist, IS Inkasso. This was followed in August and September 2016 with two further 3PC companies, German-based Apontas and Tesch.