



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Nordic Mid Market M&A Activity on the Rise

Research Report by mergermarket finds dealmakers anticipate an increase in Nordic Mid Market M&A

The vast majority of respondents to a research report published by mergermarket in conjunction with Accura, Arntzen de Besche, Borenius & Kemppinen, Ernst & Young, Mannheimer Swartling and Nordic Capital, of CEOs and CFOs of Nordic mid market companies anticipate greater M&A volumes in the Nordic region over the next year. 67% of respondents would consider making an acquisition in the next twelve months, half of whom would target a small competitor. Opinion is divided on whether deal sizes will increase or remain stable.

Quote if possible

Other key findings of the Nordic Mid Market Report include:

- Optimism prevails in the Nordic region and both the national and regional economic outlook is expected to improve within 12 months. 73% of the respondents judge their firm's prospects to be greater now than 6 months ago.
- The majority of respondents consider the economic outlook of their own country to be synonymous with that of the Nordic region as a whole.
- Nordic Investment into the EU Accession countries is expected to increase significantly, with particular focus upon the Baltics and Poland, but Accession should generate only a marginal decrease in FDI into the Nordic region. EU Accession is not expected to impact significantly on Nordic companies' earnings or costs.
- Export levels are expected to increase over the next year with Danish respondents appearing to be the most optimistic.

Interviews of 100 CFOs and CEOs of Nordic mid market companies were conducted on an anonymous basis over the telephone in April 2004. Forty companies were domiciled in Sweden, and twenty in Norway, Denmark and Finland respectively.

Remark, the research and publishing subsidiary of mergermarket, conducted the research. mergermarket is an unparalleled mergers and acquisitions (M&A) intelligence tool. In any market, the life blood of advisers is deal flow. mergermarket is unique in the provision of origination intelligence to the investment banking, legal, private equity, acquisition finance, public relation (PR) and corporate markets. With an unrivalled network of journalists covering M&A in Europe and North America, mergermarket generates and delivers proprietary intelligence. This wealth of intelligence, together with a series of deal databases, individual and house league tables, profiles and editorial have proven time and time again that this product can and does generate real revenues for clients. **Visit us at: www.mergermarket.com**

For a copy of the report and other information, please contact either:

Justin Brocklebank

E-mail: justin.brocklebank@mergermarket.com

Tel: +44 (0)20 7059 6126



Elisabeth Nygren
E-mail: elisabeth.nygren@mergermarket.com
Tel: +44 (0)20 7059 6151 Mob: +44 (0)78 7627 3312