

BIP invests in Columba and facilitates its merger with Rapid Data

Berlin / Lübeck / Luxembourg, 14 July 2020

BIP Fund (SCA), SICAR (“BIP”), advised by BIP Capital Partners, Luxembourg, acquired a significant stake in Columba Online Identity Management (“**Columba**”) in March 2020 via a capital increase. The fund also acquired additional shares from an existing shareholder. Columba is using the proceeds of the capital increase to execute its merger with Rapid Data GmbH (“**Rapid Data**”), creating the market leader for software and digitisation solutions in the German funeral services market.

Berlin-based Columba is a rapidly growing software house that offers a unique, innovative solution for the funeral services market. Its *QuickForm* software enables funeral directors and relatives to manage the digital legacies of the deceased. Columba has acted as a digitisation partner for funeral homes, insurance companies, and other private and public partners since 2013, and its applications offer reliable help with all the formalities that need handling following an event of death.

Lübeck-based Rapid Data has long been the market leader for ERP software in the German funeral services sector. Its *PowerOrdo* software allows funeral homes to efficiently organise and execute operational processes such as order processing or accounting. Other offerings cover memorial card design, personal memorial portals and ERP software for crematoria.

The merger of the two companies will provide funeral directors and bereaved relatives with an end-to-end range of software solutions from a single source. Columba and Rapid Data have been partners for many years and complement each other in terms of their business focus and sales activities.

Oliver Eiler, CEO of Columba, commented on the successful transaction as follows: “We are extremely pleased to have acquired BIP Capital Partners as a strong partner. Our new setup offers an optimal basis to further expand over the coming years what is already the market-leading ERP system for funeral homes and to incorporate new, digital communications and marketing modules into a flexible, full-scope sector solution that can be deployed internationally.”

Katrin Wehr-Seiter, Partner at BIP Capital Partners, added: “Columba’s innovative software solutions and services make it a rapidly growing digitisation partner for the German funeral services market. Based on its sector-leading ERP system, Rapid Data has been able to build close customer relationships stretching back many years. We are looking forward to support Columba/Rapid Data in its future joint strategy.”

About BIP:

BIP invests in medium sized companies with clear growth perspectives, primarily in Germany, the Benelux countries, France, Austria and Switzerland. BIP helps firms from different sectors with their development and growth, providing both in-depth expertise and finance for additional growth initiatives or acquisitions.

Contact:

Katrin Wehr-Seiter
Managing Director, Partner
katrin.wehr-seiter@bip.lu
+352 26 00 26 1

Sebastian Brose
Investment Director
sebastian.brose@bip.lu
+352 26 00 26 1