FRANKFURT AM MAIN/HAMBURG
July 16th 2026

Ardian announces sale of GBA Group to Bridgepoint after successfully accelerating international growth

- Organic expansion of laboratory capacities, international growth with existing key accounts, and accelerated buy-and-build with 19 strategic add-on acquisitions
- Internationalization of the business from the DACH region across Europe, Southeast Asia and the USA
- Broadening its service offering into the medical devices and cosmetics sectors, alongside new pharmaceutical market segments

Ardian, a global private investment firm, has signed an agreement to sell its majority stake in GBA Group ("GBA"), a Hamburg-based international life science and laboratory analytics provider, to Bridgepoint. Since investing in 2021, Ardian has supported the company very successfully on its organic and external growth path by entering new geographic markets and customer segments, thereby more than doubling the Group's revenue.

Founded in 1989, GBA is an international life science service company with more than 3,500 employees and a wide range of analytical, logistical and specialist services in the areas of food, environment, building contaminants, drinking water, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, medical devices and cosmetics. GBA operates at around 100 locations across Europe, North America, Asia-Pacific and other international markets. The majority of this international expansion has been delivered since 2021 with Ardian's support.

GBA provides laboratory analysis and specialized clinical trial services, as well as consulting to private companies and public institutions in support of their research, product development, market development and consumer protection activities. With Ardian's support, GBA has significantly expanded its pharmaceutical offering and entered the medical devices and cosmetics sectors, building on its established food and environmental analysis businesses.

Sustained investment in digitization, expanded business with major accounts, and the launch of technology- and AI-enabled services supported GBA's exceptional organic revenue development. Ardian also backed extensive investment in domestic and international infrastructure – including additional laboratory space, automation and new specialized testing methods. GBA's growth was further accelerated by a targeted buy-and-build strategy, which comprised 19 acquisitions in total.

"We are proud to have unlocked the significant potential of GBA over the past five years while fully implementing our value creation plan. We were supported by structural growth driven by increasing regulatory requirements, an active and targeted consolidation strategy, and the performance of the GBA management team, whom we thank for their excellent work and partnership in the past five years."

● **GUNNAR CHRESTIN** ● MANAGING DIRECTOR BUYOUT, ARDIAN

"The Testing, Inspection and Certification sector continues to benefit from powerful structural tailwinds, driven by increasingly complex regulation, accelerating product innovation and growing demand for independent scientific expertise. Together with management, we have strengthened GBA's position at the forefront of these trends by expanding its technical capabilities, entering attractive new end markets and broadening its geographic reach."

● **EDWARD LITTLE** ● HEAD OF BUYOUT UK & MANAGING DIRECTOR, ARDIAN

"Together with Ardian, we have taken GBA to a new level, both in terms of our international presence and our service offering. Thanks to Ardian's support we have been able to execute on our targeted buy-and-build strategy while at the same time growing organically in a sustainable and dynamic manner. For this, I would like to sincerely thank all GBA employees. We now look forward to partnering with Bridgepoint, whose strong sector expertise, local presence and global network make them an ideal partner to support the next phase of our growth strategy."

● **STEFFEN WALTER** ● CEO, GBA GROUP

The transaction is expected to close by the end of 2026, subject to customary closing conditions, including regulatory approvals. Financial details of the transaction were not disclosed.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Ardian

M&A: Macquarie, Morgan Stanley

FDD: EY

Tax: Taxess

Commercial: LEK

Legal: Milbank

ABOUT ARDIAN

In a world of constant evolution, Ardian stands out for its ability to anticipate, adapt, and turn challenges into opportunities. As a global, diversified private markets firm with 22 offices and more than 350 investment professionals worldwide, we provide investment and customized solutions that reflect new economic dynamics and help our clients remain resilient in a changing world.
We deliver multi-local expertise and long-term performance for our investors and partners as well as shared value for the broader society. Since Ardian's inception in 1996, our pioneering approach to diversification and our ability to offer tailor-made solutions at scale have remained the heart of our strategy.
Through commitment, knowledge and technology, we bring lasting value to our companies and contribute positively to the whole industry.
Ardian currently manages or advises $200bn for more than 1,920 clients worldwide across Private Equity, Real Assets, and Credit.
Ardian. Mastering change for lasting value.

ardian.com

ABOUT GBA GROUP

GBA Group is an international life science service company with over 3,500 employees and a wide range of analytical, logistical and specialist services in the fields of food, environment, drinking water, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, medical devices and cosmetics. The group stands for outstanding technical expertise, efficient processes and full focus on customer needs with regard to its activities in the fields of research, product development, market development and consumer protection. With its services, GBA Group directly and indirectly makes a sustainable contribution to health, the environment and society.

gba-group.com

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