

# DEAL REPORT

February 2018

## **Renzenbrink & Partner advised J.F. Müller & Sohn AG on the acquisition of shares in StoryDOCKS**

J.F. Müller & Sohn AG, a Hamburg-based company, was established in 1795 and remains under management by the sixth generation of the founding family. The company has traditionally specialized in lumber and maritime logistics holding investments, though in recent years it has also acquired shares in medical technology and IT-based service companies. Their overall focus lies in growth financing and succession strategies for mid-sized German companies in the classic *Mittelstand* sector.

StoryDOCKS was originally held by publishing house Friedrich Oetinger, but was spun out with the assistance of well-known external investors in 2015 and has since continued its growth. The emphasis of StoryDOCKS is on innovation in storytelling for children and teenagers via the development of new product experiences to tell comprehensive and fascinating stories by connecting content with technology. The entry of J.F. Müller & Sohn AG as incoming investor completes the parting of StoryDOCKS from publisher Friedrich Oetinger.

J.F. Müller & Sohn AG has acquired shares in the seven-figure range, which will further accelerate the growth potential of StoryDOCKS in three key portfolio sectors: personalization, digital education and multi-channel products. The company's aim is to enlarge its product range, scale its business model, and expand internationally.

Renzenbrink & Partner advised J.F. Müller & Sohn AG in respect of all corporate aspects of the transaction. The team consisted of partner Dr. Ulf Renzenbrink and senior associate Dr. Niels Maier (both Corporate/M&A). Dr. Kai-Uwe Plath of KNPZ Rechtsanwälte also provided counsel in respect of IP/IT issues.

Contact:

T +49 40 3501710-0

F +49 40 3501710-10

[info@renzenbrink-partner.de](mailto:info@renzenbrink-partner.de)