

Press Release

Stellus Capital Management, LLC Provides First Lien Financing in Support of Swander Pace Capital's acquisition of Watkins, Inc.'s Personal Care & Household business, which includes the portfolio of products marketed under the "J.R. Watkins" brand.

Houston – TX, January [13], 2018 - Stellus Capital Management, LLC (Stellus) announced today that its affiliates provided a Unitranche Loan Facility in support of Swander Pace Capital's acquisition of J.R. Watkins ("JRW") Personal Care & Households business from Watkins, Inc..

Watkins, Inc. is a 150-year-old manufacturer and marketer of natural personal and home care products, as well as premium spices and extracts. As part of its investment, Swander Pace will carve out its Personal Care & Household offering into a separate company. The new entity will retain the name "J.R. Watkins" and will manufacture, market and sell the same high-quality products for which it has been known for 150 years.

Heather Smith Thorne, a Managing Director with Swander Pace Capital, said, "We appreciate the effort and flexibility Stellus showed on this transaction and we look forward to the ongoing relationship as we further develop the JRW platform."

Adam Pollock, Managing Director at Stellus added, "JRW is a long-standing brand in the home and personal care space with tremendous potential. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with Swander Pace Capital as they execute their playbook to facilitate JRW's continued growth."