



Pollen Street Capital Building Market Leaders in European Financial and Business Services

IPEM – January 2020



Specialist Risk Group is a leading broker of European SME commercial insurance

- **Specialist Risk Group** is a diversified European commercial lines insurance broker – focusing specialist segments.
- Market leader in UK and Ireland in placing insurance for SMEs in difficult trades such as demolition, waste and recycling and late night trades.
- c.£350m of Gross Written Premium arranged per annum



operations, compliance and data analytics













Sourcing: Buy-and-build strategy supported by off-market acquisitions

• Buy-and-build:

- Original investment, Miles Smith acquired via a limited auction process.
 - Pollen Street chosen despite <u>not</u> being highest bidder (due to sector track record & expertise)
- Three bolt-on acquisitions completed to date - all sourced off-market via Pollen Street network
- Attractive blended acquisition multiple of <8x EBITDA
- Vendors seeking expertise and relevant market experience rather than purely maximising price

Pollen Street Investment Themes:

Value of Specialism		The specialist insurance segment is growing faster than the overall mature market Large incumbents find it challenging to provide service levels required in specialist segments
Structural Change		Incumbents exiting niches to focus on high-volume / low margin areas Shift value chain to higher value-add activities
Technology and data		Technology investments facilitate step change in operating margins
Succession management expertise	•	Incumbent owner-managers looking for opportunity to step back Opportunity to professionalise and improve market positioning
M&A platform	•	Strong platform to execute buy-and-build strategy

Value Creation: Profit growth and strategic repositioning driven by application of Pollen Street's value creation framework





- 4x increase in technology spend and introduction of cloud-based platform
- Step-change in efficiency through improvement in processes and retention
- Launching a new product every 60 days during 2020
 - Entry into Irish market through acquisition of The Underwriting Exchange
 - Synergistic pipeline of opportunities in continental Europe
 - Three acquisitions completed during 2019, adding 60%+ scale to group
 - 50+ additional M&A opportunities in pipeline
 - Appointed broker to majority of Pollen Street's portfolio companies
 - Implementation of technology best practice from other portfolio businesses



Performance: Strong profit growth driven by organic growth, cost savings and M&A



Exit: Wide range of exit options driven by scale and strong fundamentals





Ongoing attractive segment dynamics

- Acyclical industry
- High profit margins and strong cash generation
- Predicable cashflows support high leverage ratios
- Multiple strategies for future profit growth
- Optimal scale for many purchasers
- Strong demand for similar businesses from trade buyers and financial sponsors

