

PRESS RELEASE

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Strata Partners advises on the sale of Holvi to BBVA

Strata Partners is pleased to announce that it has acted as exclusive financial adviser to the shareholders of Holvi Payment Services Oy (“Holvi”), the Helsinki-based online business banking provider, on the sale of the company to Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, S.A. (“BBVA”, BME:BBVA), the global banking group.

Holvi is the FinTech innovator bringing disruption to the small business banking sector, and as such attracted the interest of BBVA as it expands its portfolio of digital businesses. Holvi, which will continue to be run as a stand-alone business, offers value-added online banking for European small and micro businesses by giving them a complete platform to manage all aspects of their finances.

Teppo Paavola, chief development officer and general manager of New Digital Businesses at BBVA, said: “We’re excited about Holvi as we share a vision about the benefit of technology for the customer. They use digital to bring a new approach to small business banking, where services essential to a business’ future (such as invoicing) are built into their core offer.”

Johan Lorenzen, CEO of Holvi commented: “We’ve found the ideal owner in BBVA – a bank with the understanding of the digital world to give us the necessary room to grow, and the scale and expertise to underpin that growth with sound foundations.”

About Holvi

Holvi, which was founded in 2011, offers ‘Banking for Makers and Doers’. The company provides entrepreneurs and small & medium-sized enterprises with a range of innovative, integrated business, banking and payments services through its online platform. Business services offered by Holvi include an online webshop, an invoicing facility, online payments, a bookkeeping application and a company Mastercard. Holvi is an Authorised Payment Institution licensed and regulated by the Financial Supervisory Authority of Finland (FIN-FSA).

Holvi has been voted as the “hottest startup in Finland” by Wired Magazine, chosen as one of the most innovative and disruptive brands in financial technology by FinTechCity London and called “the next big thing to come out of Finland after Nokia” by Forbes Magazine. It was backed by leading European venture capital firm Speedinvest as well as by Seedcamp and a number of prominent Finnish and Danish angel investors.

Learn more about Holvi at <https://about.holvi.com/en/>.

About Strata Partners

Founded in 2002, Strata Partners is an independent corporate finance partnership headquartered in London that provides buy side and sell side mergers & acquisitions advice and capital raising services to technology and science-enabled businesses across the globe.

Learn more about Strata at www.strata-partners.com.