

Browne Jacobson's North West dealmakers advise on shipping and logistics business acquisition of Lancashire based World Options

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21 July 2022

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The acquisition will support MBE with its global growth strategy and strengthen its integrated platform providing e-commerce, fulfillment, shipping, marketing and print solutions to SMBs and consumers.

Lancashire based World Options has over 120 franchisees and agents across the UK, USA, Australia, the Netherlands and Belgium. The business supports over 10,000 SMBs with their shipping needs, including small parcels to large freight, both domestically and internationally.

The Manchester Browne Jacobson deal team was led by **corporate partner Peter Allen** with assistance from **partner Ryan Brown** and **associate Bethany Pickup**. **Partner Ian Deakin** supported on the employment aspect, **senior associate Camille Caulfield** supported on the real estate side, **senior associate Melanie Hilton** advised on the banking element, **partner Cat Driscoll** advised from a commercial aspect and **partner Andrew Noble** gave specialist tax advice.

Stewart Butler, Chief Executive and founder of World Options commented: "Combining forces with MBE creates unique opportunities to grow our business in new ways to benefit our franchisees and our loyal customers with colleagues similarly steeped in managing a franchise-based network of entrepreneurs.

"This is the first time we have worked with Browne Jacobson and the service we received from them and the turnaround in delivery of this strategic deal was excellent. Having legal advisers local to our HQ helped the deal go as smooth as it could've, their knowledge of ours and MBE's business offering and the local market we operate in was really strong and their deep-rooted experience of advising on complex international mergers really shone and ensured that the different workstreams were proactively managed. We really trusted them and were grateful to have their support."

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