

Under embargo

31 March 2015

Synova backs highly rated Defaqto

Synova Capital LLP (“Synova”), an award winning investor in UK growth companies, has supported the management buy-out of leading financial information business, **Defaqto Group Limited** (“Defaqto”, the “Company” or the “Business”). Synova has invested alongside the existing management team, acquiring a majority shareholding in the Business.

Defaqto is an independent provider of information on financial services products, focused on providing intelligence to support better financial decision-making. At its heart is the UK’s largest retail financial product and fund database – which it maintains by collecting data from across the whole market, and using its expertise and insight to analyse this data, making it comparable. From this, Defaqto creates a range of products and services – ratings, software solutions, data services, and publications and events – to deliver this information in a meaningful way. Defaqto’s intelligence facilitates enhanced financial decisions and greater effectiveness in the creation, management and distribution of financial products.

Synova’s investment will support the management team to grow the Company primarily through its organic activities with a strategy to double the size of the Business over the next few years.

Commenting on the transaction, Zahid Bilgrami, Defaqto’s Chief Executive, said: *“We are delighted to be supported in this next phase of growth by Synova. We believe there are a number of exciting opportunities ahead of us, including the expansion of the products and services that we offer to our customers on top of our unique product intelligence.”*

Commenting on the transaction, Philip Shapiro, a Managing Partner at Synova and Non-Executive Director of Defaqto, said: *“We are delighted to be partnering with Defaqto’s impressive management team who have delivered exceptional growth in recent years. We believe that Defaqto will continue to grow strongly as it provides greater transparency to the highly complex and heavily regulated retail financial services market.”*

Llewellyn John, who represented FF&P Private Equity on the board of Defaqto until completion, said: *“Zahid and his team have done a great job of creating value in Defaqto through a strong commitment to the business and belief in the value of independent data driving improved financial decisions. We think that the business will continue to thrive and grow and we wish them every success in the future.”*

Russell Healey, Foresight Partner and Director of Defaqto until completion commented: *“We are delighted to have supported Defaqto and its management team. The team has delivered a market leading product range and strong growth in profits over the last few years. We are confident that Defaqto is well-positioned to flourish in the next phase of its development.”*

-Ends-



Notes:

1. **Synova** invests in UK growth opportunities with a particular focus on companies valued at between £5m and £50m. Key verticals include Business Services, Financial Services, Technology, Consumer and Healthcare & Education.

Synova Partners, Philip Shapiro and Tim Ashlin, will both serve as Directors of Defaqto. Further information on Synova is available from www.synova-capital.com.

2. **FF&P Private Equity** ('FPE') is a growth private equity investor into UK lower mid-market companies. It targets businesses with advantaged business models that offer significant growth potential in large markets undergoing structural change. FF&P Private Equity Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Further information is available at www.ffandp.com/private-equity/
3. **Foresight Group** is a leading infrastructure and private equity investment manager, which has been managing investment funds on behalf of institutions and retail clients for more than 30 years. Foresight has £1.3 billion of Assets Under Management across a number of funds, including Listed Vehicles, Limited Partnerships, Enterprise Investment Schemes (EISs) and Venture Capital Trusts (VCTs). Further information is available at www.foresightgroup.eu
4. Synova was advised on the transaction by Addleshaw Goddard (Legal), CIL (Commercial DD) and Grant Thornton (Financial DD). The vendors were advised by Deloitte and Taylor Wessing. The management team were advised by Eleanor Wilkinson at ABG Corporate Finance LLP, and Alys Carlton at Capital Law.

Senior debt to support the transaction was provided by HSBC. Clearwater International advised Synova on the acquisition and working capital facilities.

5. **Defaqto** aims to help people make better financial decisions; it does so by organising financial information and making it universally accessible and useful. Founded in 1994, it is independently owned and is the only UK research company covering all retail financial products. Further information is available at www.defaqto.com.

For further information:

Synova Capital LLP

Philip Shapiro, Managing Partner

Tel: +44 (0)20 3475 7660

Email: info@synova-capital.com

Defaqto Group Limited

Adam Richards Gray, Head of Marketing and PR

Tel: +44 (0)1844 295 556

Email: agray@defaqto.com