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## Cole Associates Going Global with IMC Worldwide



IMC Worldwide MBO team with Jeremy Cole (far right)

IMC Worldwide, the international development consulting operating company of WSP Group plc, has been sold to its management team in a deal supported by EV Group and the Co-Operative Bank. The MBO and funding package of £3.7m means IMC is well positioned to continue to grow and expand its business. Based in London, IMC employs 70 staff located in both the UK and overseas. Lead advisors on the deal were Jeremy Cole and David Middleton of Cole Associates Corporate Finance.

IMC provides management consulting services to governments, international development organisations and private sector clients both in the UK and overseas. Typically working in 20 countries around the world at any time, the business is focused on infrastructure projects as well as disaster recovery and climate change. Work is funded by a range of donor organisations, including DFID (UK Department for International Development); European Union, European Investment Bank, World Bank and Inter American Development Bank. High profile assignments on which IMC is currently engaged include: the award winning Rural Access Programme in Nepal; the Fael Khair Cyclone cum School Shelter project in Bangladesh; the Technology, Infrastructure and Urban Planning Resource Centre Framework; and the Cross Roads project in Uganda.

The MBO team are led by the Managing Director, Gavin English. Mr English commented "We are delighted to be able to return IMC Worldwide to independent ownership with the support of EV. My team and I are passionate about growing our business across the world. "

Private equity was provided by Paul Taberner and Simon Ward of EV Group. Debt facilities were provided through Steve Fishburn of The Co-operative Bank's Manchester Corporate Banking Centre. Legal advice to Newco was provided by DLA. Pinsent Masons were legal advisers to EV