



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Growth Catalyst Partners Acquires Equine Network and Forms New Company

*Leading proprietary sports, information, and tech-enabled services
platform serving the \$130 billion U.S. equine industry.*

Boulder, CO, January 8, 2021: Growth Catalyst Partners (GCP), a leading middle market private equity firm, announced today that it has acquired The Equine Network (“Equine Network”) in a corporate carve-out from Active Interest Media, Inc. Equine Network is the leading provider of proprietary sports content, information, and tech-enabled services to the \$130 billion U.S. equine industry. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed. GCP is excited to partner with Equine Network’s existing management team, including Tom Winsor, who will become President and CEO, and Andy Clurman, current CEO of Active Interest Media, who will become Executive Chairman of Equine Network.

Equine Network operates three segments: (i) *Competitions*: owns, operates and serves as the governing body for three of the World’s largest and most renowned sporting competitions in the western equine market; (ii) *Memberships*: provides roadside assistance services to 40,000 horse trailer owners and members, as well as online learning services to thousands of subscribers; (iii) *Marketing Services*: eight well-known equine industry information platforms, reaching three million individuals, and 600+ leading companies who utilize these platforms as a valuable channel for marketing solutions.

“We are incredibly enthused at the opportunity to help Tom, Andy and the Equine Network team to achieve all of the opportunities for growth in the Company’s exciting next phase,” said Jim TenBroek, GCP Managing Partner. “The team has built a great business to date, but the organic and acquisition opportunities to accelerate that growth are tremendous.”

“On behalf of the whole Equine Network team, we are truly excited to be partnering with GCP to continue on our path to becoming the premier sports, information, and services business serving the global equine industry,” said Tom Winsor, President and CEO of The Equine Network. “We are looking forward to GCP’s support and collaboration as we enter this next chapter for our business.”

GCP’s deep expertise in information, data, events, and marketing services business models, coupled with Tom and Andy’s intimate knowledge of the equine industry, provides an ideal partnership framework for Equine Network management to accelerate growth and enhance the company’s strong existing offerings. GCP plans to invest in organic initiatives, as well as M&A, to further transform Equine Network into the leading international sports, information, and services platform serving the equine market globally.

“I’m very excited to join long-time partners Jim TenBroek, Scott Peters, and James Nally at GCP in taking The Equine Network to the next level,” said Andy Clurman, Executive Chairman, The Equine Network. “Combining their skill sets in building world-class enthusiast companies both organically and through M&A, with our team’s passion and experience is an incredibly powerful combination.”

There will be a period of transition over the next several months as Equine Network transitions out of Active Interest Media and establishes standalone operations.

Monroe Capital provided debt financing to support GCP's acquisition of Equine Network. Lazard served as financial advisor to Active Interest Media in this transaction.

About The Equine Network

The Equine Network's award-winning brands present innovative content, engaging digital experiences, unique tech-enabled membership services, and live equestrian events designed to inform, entertain and support the equine community.

About Growth Catalyst Partners

Growth Catalyst Partners ("GCP") is a middle market growth equity firm focused on information, marketing and tech-enabled services businesses. GCP's strategy involves targeting growth segments of industries and identifying market leading companies with breakout potential. GCP partners with top executives within those industries and provides capital and expertise to the incumbent management teams of the targeted businesses. GCP was founded by veteran private equity investor Jim TenBroek and leading investment banker Scott Peters, who have led hundreds of transactions and successful investments in services businesses for over 20 years. For more information, visit www.growthcatalystpartners.com.

Growth Catalyst Partners | 318 W. Adams Street, #1605, Chicago, IL 60606