3535 Plymouth Blvd., • Suite 210 • Minneapolis, MN 55447 • Phone: (763) 550-9000 • Fax: (763) 550-9109 Web Address: www.quazarcapital.com E-mail: quazar-info@quazarcapital.com

# **Quazar Report – Commercial Construction**

**June 2018** 

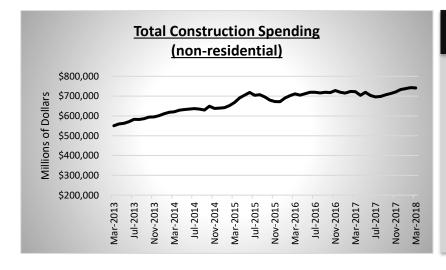
## **Executive Summary**

As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the total U.S. non-residential construction spending increased over 34% since March 2013; rising to over \$740 million annually. While Construction spending continues to rise, the U.S. unemployment rate continues to be at its lowest level since November 2000 (currently at 3.9% as of April 2018). With increased spending and low unemployment, the U.S. Construction & Engineering (C&E) industry has seen an active Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) Market. In 2017, there were 272 announced transactions within the C&E industry.

Looking forward, the Architecture Billings Index (ABI) is a leading indicator of nonresidential construction activity. For March 2018, architectural firms reported that billings continued to grow, although at a slightly slower pace.<sup>4</sup> Another leading indicator within the industry is the Commercial Construction Index (CCI), which surveys contractors across the country to gauge the outlook for and resulting confidence in the commercial construction industry. For Q1 2018, 80% of contractors reported steady or increasing backlogs, showing positive growth within the industry.<sup>5</sup> Overall, the construction industry remains strong and continues to fuel an active M&A market.

## **Key Trends/highlights**

- U.S. non-residential construction spending rose to over \$740 million, annually<sup>1</sup>
- In 2017, there were approximately 272
   announced U.S. Mergers & Acquisitions
   (M&A) within the Engineering &
   Construction Industry<sup>3</sup>
- U.S. Unemployment rate is at its lowest rate since November 2000 (currently at 3.9% as of April 2018)<sup>2</sup>
- As of March 2018, Architecture Billings Index
   (ABI) report that billings continue to grow<sup>4</sup>
- 80% of contractors report steady or increasing backlogs as of Q1 2018<sup>5</sup>



### **Quazar Contacts**

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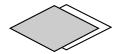
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### **Selected Transactions:**



Midwest based private equity firm purchases 60% of Specialty Contracting Business, allowing existing owners to roll forward 40% of equity.

Benefits of a leveraged recapitalization with Private Equity:

- Brought in additional experience and resources to help grow the business
- Made additional ownership available to key employees, while allowing the primary shareholder to take a substantial amount of cash off the table and reduce their risk
- Preserved confidentiality, thus allowing business to continue as usual without alarming employees and customers
- By Shareholders rolling forward equity, they stand to realize a substantial upside in the future



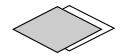
Let Quazar show you how considerably less than \$1.0 million of equity can purchase a \$20 million business.

Shareholder was motivated to sell to Management to provide continuity to the business. Below are some highlights:

- Management had been actively involved with the business and Shareholder wanted to give them the first opportunity to buy the business
- Quazar structured a mutually agreeable financing package made up of senior bank debt, mezzanine financing, Buyer's equity, and Shareholder participation
- By rolling forward ownership, Shareholder participates in the continued growth of the business and benefits by being financially rewarded again in the future
- The business also benefits from building a new board, resulting in a stronger governance system and access to additional growth capital

### **About Quazar Capital Corporation**

Quazar Capital Corporation (<u>quazarcapital.com</u>) is a Minnesota based Investment Banking Firm with over 25 years of experience confidentially helping privately held companies with Mergers & Acquisitions, Recapitalizations, and Financial Advisory Services. Quazar specializes in transitioning companies with EBITDA of \$2 - \$10 million.



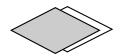
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## Selected Transactions: Recent Industry M&A Activity (with disclosed value)

Announced Date	Target/Issuer	Total Transaction Value (in \$MM)	Buyers/Investors	Industry Classifications
1/4/2018	Westinghouse Electric Company LLC	\$4,600	Brookfield Business Partners L.P. (NYSE:BBU)	Heavy Construction; Specialty Contract Work
8/2/2017	CH2M HILL Companies, Ltd.	\$3,375	Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. (NYSE:JEC)	Commercial Construction and Engineering; Construction and Engineering; Construction Support Services
10/24/2016	Contech Holdings, Inc	\$950	Quikrete Holdings, Inc.	Construction and Engineering
3/29/2016	MWH Global, Inc.	\$793	Stantec Inc. (TSX:STN)	Construction and Engineering; Construction Support Services
2/14/2018	Layne Christensen Company (NasdaqGS:LAYN)	\$523	Granite Construction Incorporated (NYSE:GVA)	Construction and Engineering; Heavy Construction; Specialty Contract Work
3/2/2018	United Subcontractors, Inc.	\$475	TopBuild Corp. (NYSE:BLD)	Construction and Engineering; Specialty Contract Work
11/12/2015	Lane Industries Incorporated	\$406	Salini Impregilo S.p.A. (BIT:SAL)	Construction and Engineering; Heavy Construction
11/2/2015	Furmanite Corporation	\$360	Team, Inc. (NYSE:TISI)	Construction and Engineering; Construction Support Services; Specialty Contract Work
8/11/2016	Tecta America Corp.	\$280	ONCAP	Construction and Engineering; Specialty Contract Work
3/21/2016	Ardent Services, L.L.C. and Rabalais Constructors, LLC	\$205	EMCOR Group, Inc. (NYSE:EME)	Construction and Engineering
7/6/2017	Shimmick Construction Company, Inc.	\$175	AECOM (NYSE:ACM)	Construction and Engineering; Construction Support Services; Heavy Construction
3/28/2018	Willbros Group, Inc. (OTCPK:WGRP)	\$172	Primoris Services Corporation (NasdaqGS:PRIM)	Construction and Engineering; Construction Support Services; Heavy Construction; Specialty Contract Work
8/6/2015	T.A.S. Commercial Concrete Construction, LLC	\$143	Orion Group Holdings, Inc. (NYSE:ORN)	Commercial Construction and Engineering; Construction and Engineering; Specialty Contract Work
6/10/2015	Rough Brothers Manufacturing, Inc.	\$130	Gibraltar Industries, Inc. (NasdaqGS:ROCK)	Construction and Engineering
02/23/2017	BCH Holdings, Inc.	\$121	Comfort Systems USA, Inc. (NYSE:FIX)	Construction and Engineering

Source: Capital IQ



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## Selected Transactions: Recent Industry M&A Activity (without disclosed value)

Announced Date	Target/Issuer	Buyers/Investors	Industry Classifications
5/14/2018	JVP Engineers, PC	Ameresco Federal Solutions, Inc.	Construction and Engineering
5/9/2018	Axis Renewable Group, Inc.	World Wind & Solar, LLC	Construction and Engineering
5/7/2018	L.A. Lacy, Incorporated	The Branch Group, Inc.	Construction and Engineering
5/3/2018	Fields Construction Company	Katerra Inc.	Construction and Engineering
5/3/2018	Richter Solar Energy LLC	Entegrity Energy Partners LLC	Construction and Engineering
5/1/2018	Axiom Energy Solutions LLC	CoolSys, Inc.	Construction and Engineering
4/30/2018	The Thompson Companies	Lapham-Hickey Steel Corporation	Construction and Engineering; Specialty Contract Work
4/23/2018	Encompass Inspections LLC	Ground Penetrating Radar Systems, LLC	Construction and Engineering; Construction Support Services
4/17/2018	Eberlin & Eberlin, P.C.	Barton & Loguidice, P.C.	Construction and Engineering
4/16/2018	gkkworks Construction Services, Inc.	Cannon Design, Inc.	Construction and Engineering
4/16/2018	Reid & Associates, LLC	HB Construction, Inc.	Construction and Engineering
4/11/2018	Twining sys-tek, LLC	Twining, Inc.	Construction and Engineering
4/9/2018	Diamond Glass and Mirror, Inc.	United Subcontractors, Inc.	Construction and Engineering; Specialty Contract Work
4/9/2018	Shafer, Kline & Warren, Inc.	McClure Engineering Co. Inc.	Construction and Engineering; Construction Support Services
4/3/2018	DiGiorgio Associates Inc. and Monitor Builders Inc.	The LiRo Group	Construction and Engineering

Source: Capital IQ

#### Sources:

- ${\bf 1: "Total\ Construction\ Spending:\ Nonresidential".\ U.S.\ Bureau\ of\ the\ Census.\ 2018-05-16.}$
- 2: "Civilian Unemployment Rate". U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2018-05-16.
- 3: Capital IQ. 2018-05-21
- 4: Architecture Billings Index (ABI): March 2018.
- 5: Commercial Construction Index: Q1 2018. 2018-05-16.