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Kevin Landry and TA Associates’ hunt for deals

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Change is afoot in Swiss private equity

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"Two years ago, if you called a Swiss pension fund, they didn’t want to talk to you, they were having so many problems with public equity. Now they’re coming back slowly."

Ralph Aerni, head of private equity at Zurich-headquartered gatekeeper Strategic Capital Management, on the gradual recovery of Swiss institutions’ appetite for private equity.

**SMITH NAMED CHAIRMAN OF TUCK CENTER**

A major research center focused on private equity has a new chairman who knows a thing or two about the topic. Renny Smith, a managing director at TH Lee Partners (an affiliate of Boston’s Thomas H. Lee Partners), was recently named chairman of the Center for Private Equity and Entrepreneurship at the Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College.

Smith replaces John Foster, a managing director of merchant bank HealthPoint who, in 1998, provided seed funding for the Tuck Center. The Center, led by professors Fred Wainwright and Colin Blaydon, has done groundbreaking research into venture capital valuation, corporate governance and entrepreneurship.

Smith himself received his MBA from Tuck Business School in 1983 and is now charged with, among other things, recruiting more supporters for the programme. The Center’s executive advisory board already has some private equity heavy hitters, many of them Tuck alumni, including Peter Barris of New Enterprise Associates (Tuck 1977); Paul Raether of KKR (Tuck 1973); Frederick Maynard of HarbourVest (Tuck 1985); and Bruce Rauner of GTCR Golder Rauner, who attended Dartmouth as an undergraduate but received his MBA from Harvard - a fact that none of Rauner’s fellow advisory board members appear to hold against him.