

PRESS RELEASE

Catalyst Offloads Actrol for \$280m

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Private-equity firm Catalyst Investment Managers has completed the sale of its refrigeration and air-conditioning parts business Actrol to listed plumbing-giant Reece, for \$280 million.

Catalyst's exit, which is understood to have been a substantial win for the firm, comes after approaches from trade and equity players which prompted the firm to initiate a sale process which attracted a handful of final bids. Catalyst bought Actrol in May 2010 from family-controlled GSA Industries for an undisclosed sum.

Actrol's revenue has soared under Catalyst's ownership. Sales posted for the 2013 fiscal year were \$240 million, up from about \$110 million when Catalyst bought the business. Actrol was the anchor investment of the firm's Catalyst Buyout Fund 2, which raised \$438 million in 2008.

The sale of Actrol continues a string of successful exits for Catalyst. The firm exited Sydney-based Global Television in December, selling it to US-based NEP Inc for an undisclosed sum. It is believed to have been one of Catalyst's most lucrative exits after it picked up the then-listed Global TV in an off-market takeover in 2006 for \$46 million.

In August, Catalyst sold its stake of about 43 per cent in New Zealand-based online retailer EziBuy Holdings to Woolworths subsidiaries for \$NZ350 million. Last year, Catalyst also sold its stake in wholesaler Moraitis Group to Hong Kong-listed Chevalier International Holdings.

Actrol Group has 79 branches across Australia, five distribution centres and a gas plant. It operates two businesses – Actrol Parts and AC Components – which will retain their names under the deal with Reece.

The management of Actrol held a minority in the business which they sold to Reece as part of the deal.

UBS and Oaktower Partnership were Catalyst's advisers on the Actrol sale.

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