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Troubled Geneva-based private bank sells up

Swiss wealth manager Banque de Patrimoines Privés Genève has been acquired by Geneva-based Norinvest Holdings for an undisclosed amount.

The deal comes after a troubled period for BPP with its former chairman Francois Rouge arrested in France at the end of 2007. Rouge remains under house arrest.

Frenk Mutschlechner, from the wealth management acquisition specialist Millenium Associates and who worked on the deal for BPP, said: "The Rouge issue had little impact on the price paid. This was a personal matter between him and the French authorities and did not involve the bank. On the whole, BPP shareholders were happy with the outcome."

Typically, an acquisition of this type would command a price of around 2-3% of assets under management and some premium on top depending on profitability. Mutschlechner wouldn't disclose whether BPP was priced using this principle.

BPP has around SFr1.5bn assets under management.

Norinvest Holdings owns the Geneva-based private bank Banque Cramer and is a majority owner of the Lausanne-based jewelry company Golay Buchel.

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