

Bumper times ahead for PE deals in Sweden

Written by Johan Nylander

Wednesday, 07 September 2011 00:00 - Last Updated Thursday, 08 September 2011 12:10



Sweden's private equity market looks set to boom after last year's record levels of buyout investments. Scores of business opportunities will open up for foreign investors, with Swedish private equity firms expected to sell off holdings, according to a trend report from a leading industry organisation.

Marie Reinius, head of the Swedish Private Equity & Venture Capital Association, said that with the global economy now recovering, Swedish companies are in good health.

Buyout companies are expected to put a host of assets on the market thanks to improved access to credit, more active buyers and improved results from portfolio companies.

Which industries are the most active at the moment?

“During the past two years, healthcare, cleantech, consumer goods and services have been hot,” Reinius said. “The smaller technology-driven IT companies are attracting interest, not least from the major US IT giants.”

Reinius predicted there will be sell-offs and business activity across the board.

“It is not industry specific. [The PE firms] want to sell the companies that are ripe for sale, regardless of industry,” she said.

Trends show the industry moving towards large deals. A lot of buyout funds have to sell their holdings, while funds that were raised before the crisis are now in investment mode. Reinius explained that prices are going up because of growing interest from industrial companies.

The Swedish Private Equity & Venture Capital Association (SVCA) is the industry association

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for the private equity industry in Sweden. Private equity and venture capital are active forms of ownership and act as catalysts for growth in the Swedish economy.

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