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SCHWARTZ CLIENT TARGET OF BIGGEST LBO

By Kevin McCauley

G.S. Schwartz & Co. handles NBTY Inc., which is the target of a $3.8B leveraged buyout deal by Carlyle Group.

The transaction ranks as the biggest LBO of the year, a bullish sign for private equity funds that are sitting on more than $500B in cash.

Shareholders of Ronkonkoma-based NBTY will receive $55 in cash for each share owned, the price represents a 57 percent premium over the last 30-day daily closing average.

NBTY manufactures, markets and distributes nutritional supplements under brands such as Nature's Bounty, Vitamin World, Rexall, GNC, Solgar, Puritan's Pride, Good `n' Natural and Home Health.

Carlyle has more than $90B in assets under management. Its companies have a combined $85B in revenues and nearly 400K staffers.

Sandra Horbach, head of Carlyle's consumer and retail sector, says NBTY is an attractive buy due to its well-established brands, a proven vertically-integrated multi-channel/geography strategy plus strong leadership.