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Marubeni Consumer Platform US Announces Acquisition of Jacobson Group

Acquisition adds iconic Gola brand, advancing MCPU's platform strategy and elevating RGB's heritage footprint globally

New York, USA – January 07, 2026 – Marubeni Consumer Platform US (“MCPU”), established under Marubeni Corporation’s Next Generation Corporate Development Division, today announced the acquisition of Jacobson Group (“Jacobson”), a portfolio of lifestyle footwear brands including Gola, Lotus, Ravel, and Frank Wright, along with licensed brands Dunlop and Lonsdale. Under the agreement, Jacobson Group will be integrated into the MCPU’s lifestyle platform, with RGB Brands (“RGB”) serving as the platform engine. Financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Marubeni’s Next Generation Corporate Development Division leads the company’s corporate development agenda, executing investments and M&A to capture high-growth opportunities in the global consumer sector and to build new Strategic Platform Businesses. These platforms represent Marubeni’s next generation of core businesses—defined by attractive growth domains, high value creation, and scalable operating models. Within this mandate, MCPU is building a sizable consumer platform in the United States.

Jacobson Group has evolved from a family-founded British footwear business into a globally recognized, multi-brand enterprise. Gola’s more than 120-year heritage and timeless design aesthetic in lifestyle and casual footwear anchors the portfolio, and strengthens the platform’s position in attractive, high-potential categories. At the same time, its established brands and select licensing partnerships will continue to fuel growth across the UK, U.S., and other international markets - delivering further category diversification alongside expansion into new territories.

The MCPU lifestyle platform is anchored by RGB, under the leadership of President and Chief Executive Officer Bob Mullaney. RGB has more than 75 years of category expertise, with a consumer-focused, data-driven, digital-centric, and earth-first philosophy. It is the operational engine powering a portfolio of consumer brands, including Dearfoams, Baggallini, and Columbus Product Group, with the scale to reach millions across leading retailers. In November, RGB also announced an agreement in principle to acquire the global slipper license for Clarks® and the U.S. slipper license for Timberland® from Green Market Services. Integrating Jacobson into this platform will unlock meaningful value through shared scale, enhanced go-to-market capabilities, and the opportunity to elevate heritage brands with significant untapped potential.

“The acquisition of Jacobson Group advances the platform architecture we’ve been building, and comes at a particularly exciting time, fueled by Gola’s rapidly expanding market resonance. This marks a defining step in establishing the MCPU lifestyle platform as a scalable, multi-brand ecosystem.” said Shana Randhava, President of Marubeni Consumer Platform US. “With RGB anchoring operational excellence, this move reinforces Marubeni’s strategy, advanced through its Next Generation Corporate Development Division, to build category-led consumer platforms powered by shared engines, capable of shaping the company’s growth trajectory over the coming decade.”

“This is a transformative moment for RGB,” said Bob Mullaney. “Gola brings cultural relevance and global ambition, and the broader Jacobson portfolio extends the platform’s reach across lifestyle and heritage categories. Our values are closely aligned, and we are committed to investing in what already

makes these brands distinctive. By pairing Jacobson’s strengths with RGB’s scale, infrastructure, and operational excellence, we are well-positioned to accelerate growth across key international markets.”

To ensure continuity, a smooth transition, and the preservation of the deep industry knowledge and entrepreneurial culture that has shaped the business, Jacobson Group will continue to be led by its existing leadership team - Tony Evans, Gary Shutt, Jonathan Jacobson, and Donna Hill.

“I am hugely proud of everything Jacobson Group has achieved since my brother and I launched the business in 1982. It has been a privilege to steward these iconic British footwear brands, and I would like to thank all our employees for the commitment and dedication they have shown to our family business over many decades,” said Harvey Jacobson, Founder and Executive Chairman of Jacobson Group. “As we look to the future, Marubeni and RGB Brands offer the ideal platform, vision, and long-term commitment to take Jacobson’s brands into their next phase of growth. I am confident the business will continue to go from strength to strength, and I wish everyone at Jacobson, RGB and Marubeni every success as they embark on this exciting new chapter together.”

“We have never been in a stronger position, and joining this platform will allow us to build on that momentum while remaining true to the values that make Jacobson Group so special,” said Tony Evans, CEO of Jacobson Group. “This acquisition represents a major milestone for the business, and I look forward to working closely with the RGB and Marubeni teams to drive growth across the globe. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our Jacobson employees as we celebrate this landmark achievement. Finally, I would like to recognize the enormous role that Harvey and the wider Jacobson family has played in making the Group what it is today. He has put his heart and soul into growing the business, and we all owe him our sincere thanks as we wish him well in his retirement.”

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Notes to Editors

Advisors

The Jacobson Group were advised by Alvarez & Marsal LLP and Squire Patton Boggs.
Marubeni Consumer Platform US were advised by Lowenstein Sandler LLP.

About Marubeni Corporation

Marubeni Corporation, founded in 1858 and headquartered in Tokyo, is a global integrated business enterprise that operates across a wide range of sectors, including lifestyle, food and agriculture, chemicals, energy, metals and mineral resources, power and infrastructure, mobility, and next-generation corporate development. Leveraging its global network of 67 countries and 126 offices, Marubeni engages in importing, exporting, and domestic business, as well as investment, development, and management of diverse global assets. The company established the Next Generation Corporate Development Division in 2022, led by Toshi Fukumara, to capitalize on long-term megatrends reshaping the global consumer sector and to build platforms that will drive Marubeni’s growth in 2030 and beyond. For more information, visit <https://www.marubeni.com/en/>.

About Marubeni Consumer Platform US (MCPU)

Marubeni Consumer Platform US (MCPU) was established in 2023 under Marubeni Corporation’s Next Generation Corporate Development Division. Led by Shana Randhava to build and scale consumer platforms in high-growth categories, MCPU focuses on developing multi-brand systems supported by strong brand potential, shared capabilities, and operational scale. Through disciplined investment and platform design—shaped by clear market opportunities and the needs of the brands they support—MCPU aims to create durable, long-term value and contribute to the next generation of Marubeni’s global growth. For more information, visit <https://marubeni-cp.com/en/>.

About RGB Brands

RGB Brands (RGB) is a consumer-driven, multi-channel, digitally led brand management platform developed to accelerate growth and innovation for lifestyle consumer brands. Founded in 1947 by Florence Melton, RGB introduced a range of comfortable lifestyle products under the Dearfoams brand. Today, Dearfoams is the leading slipper brand in the United States, expanding its product line to include comfortable footwear and various lifestyle products. Building on this success, RGB diversified its portfolio with the acquisition of Baggallini in 2011 and is broadening its focus to create a platform of brands that offer Earth-first, solution-oriented products. Today, RGB's portfolio includes Dearfoams, Baggallini, Columbus Product Group, and Planet A. For more information, visit www.rgbarry.com.

About Jacobson Group

Jacobson Group is an importer and distributor of footwear and bags, with a history spanning over 80 years. Its brand portfolio resonates with a broad mix of consumers, meaning it is able to deliver footwear solutions to various levels of retail on a global scale. Many of its brands are leaders in their respective fields due to their relevance and connection with the market. All its brands are part of the Jacobson family, which include Gola, Lotus, Ravel, Frank Wright, Lonsdale and Dunlop. The Group has relationships with a diverse mix of respected retail names including John Lewis, Next, Schuh, Urban Outfitters, Anthropologie, Oliver Bonas, Marks and Spencer, Selfridges, Nordstrom and Bloomingdales. For more information, visit <https://jacobsongroup.co.uk/>.

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