

20 July 2021

## Luther advises on largest casino privatisation in Germany

**Dusseldorf – Gauselmann acquires the WestSpiel Group, the market leader in the German casino market, from NRW.BANK. Luther assists the purchaser in the bidding competition for a successful takeover.**

In May 2018, the state government of NRW decided to sell the WestSpiel Group, Germany's largest casino operator. In December 2020, the sale started as a formal concession award procedure. On 20 July 2021, Gauselmann Spielbanken Beteiligungs GmbH ("**Gauselmann**") was awarded the contract. The selection among the suitable applicants was based on the highest bid for the business shares. The approval of the cartel authorities is still pending.

The WestSpiel Group operates casinos in Aachen, Bad Oeynhausen, Dortmund-Hohensyburg and Duisburg with over 900 employees. The casino in Berlin was already sold in 2013. At that time, Luther acted for NRW.BANK. The casinos in Bremen and Bremerhaven are the subject of a separate sale process.

With the acquisition of the WestSpiel Group, Gauselmann becomes a national casino champion. Gauselmann relied on the Luther casino team, which had already accompanied privatisations in Lower Saxony, Berlin and Saxony-Anhalt – in each case for the public sector. "The complex procedure, the demanding due diligence and the drafting of the purchase agreement details for this privatisation process could be implemented very well with Luther's experts. The professional and strategic support throughout this entire process was immeasurably important and helpful for us" says David Schnabel, Managing Director at Gauselmann.

**For Gauselmann:**

Luther, Gaming Law: Dr Thomas Gohrke (Partner, Lead)

Luther, Corporate/M&A: Dr Thomas Halberkamp (Partner, Lead),  
Dr Daniel Schubmann (Counsel, Lead)

Luther, Real Estate: Theresa Becker (Senior Associate), Patrick  
Gocht (Senior Associate), Tatjana Giutronich, LL.M. (Senior  
Associate)

Luther, Competition: Dr Helmut Janssen, LL.M. (Partner), Lukas  
Kienzle, LL.M. (Senior Associate)

Luther, Employment Law: Sebastian Fedder (Partner), Klaus  
Thönißen, LL.M. (Partner), Dr Martin Kolmhuber (Counsel), Dr Hilmar  
Rölz, MLE (Senior Associate), Lukas Beismann (Associate)

Luther, IP/ IT: Dr Kay Oelschlägel (Partner), Dominik Menhaj (Senior  
Associate)

**For NRW.BANK:**

Hogan Lovells, Gaming Law: Prof. Dr Thomas Dünchheim, Carsten  
Bringmann

Hogan Lovells, Corporate/M&A: Dr Franz-Josef Schöne, Merlin  
Laufenburg

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**Brief profile Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH**

Luther is a leading German commercial law firm that offers comprehensive legal and tax advice. The full-service law firm employs over 420 lawyers and tax advisors and is represented in ten German economic hubs as well as with ten of its own international offices in key investment locations and financial centres in Europe and Asia. Its clients include medium-sized enterprises and large corporations, as well as the public sector.

Luther works closely with other commercial law firms in all the prevailing jurisdictions. Luther is a founding member of unyer ([www.unyer.com](http://www.unyer.com)), a global organisation of leading professional services firms that cooperate exclusively with each other.

Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH is a law firm with a business approach: our innovative awareness aspires us to provide our clients with customised legal advice that addresses individual needs and delivers the greatest possible economic benefit. All of Luther's lawyers and tax advisors have a solid understanding of interdisciplinary matters and a wealth of experience in collaborating on complex tasks. Luther was

named "Law Firm of the Year 2019" by the German legal publisher JUVE. Further information is available at: [www.luther-lawfirm.com](http://www.luther-lawfirm.com)

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**Press Contact Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH**

Saskia Leininger

[saskia.leininger@luther-lawfirm.com](mailto:saskia.leininger@luther-lawfirm.com)

T +49 221 9937 24679

Caroline Scheller

[caroline.scheller@luther-lawfirm.com](mailto:caroline.scheller@luther-lawfirm.com)

T +49 40 18067 10251