

Rayonier Hires Frank Ruperto to Lead Performance Fibers Growth Strategy

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JACKSONVILLE, Fla.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Mar. 11, 2014-- Rayonier (NYSE:RYN) announced today that Frank A. Ruperto is joining the company as Senior Vice President, Corporate Development and Strategic Planning, effective March 31, to assist the company with achieving its future growth priorities. Upon the previously announced separation of the Performance Fibers business, Ruperto will lead the strategic growth and long-range planning initiatives for the new performance fibers company.

Ruperto brings nearly 25 years of investment banking experience in mergers and acquisitions to Rayonier. Most recently, he served as Managing Director, Mergers and Acquisitions for Bank of America Merrill Lynch and previously served as Head of Global Industries M&A for Banc of America Securities. Prior to that, Ruperto served as Managing Director, M&A at Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith. During his career, he has acted as a lead advisor on more than 100 completed mergers, acquisitions and financings valued at more than \$100 billion.

“We’re pleased to have Frank join our senior management team at this critical stage in our company’s development. Frank will lead our strategic, long range planning process and additionally begin identifying strategic opportunities that will position us for future adjacent growth,” said Paul Boynton, chairman, president and CEO of Rayonier. “Frank’s strategic thinking and experience in corporate transactions, along with his knowledge of the industrial and specialty chemical sectors, will allow him to play a critical role in our future. We have worked with Frank for more than a decade and know that adding his skill set to our team will enhance shareholder value.”

“I have worked closely with Rayonier on its strategic opportunities over the years and greatly admire its market-leading businesses and strong management team,” stated Ruperto. “This is an exciting time in the company’s history as the separation provides a solid platform to grow within the specialty chemicals sector. I’m delighted to join the organization and leverage my experience to help the company identify and execute a growth strategy for the new Performance Fibers business that drives shareholder value.”

Ruperto graduated *cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Harvard College in 1988 and holds an MBA, with a major in finance, from The Wharton School of Business at The University of Pennsylvania.

About Rayonier:

Rayonier is a leading international forest products company with three core businesses: Forest Resources, Real Estate and Performance Fibers. The company owns, leases or manages 2.6 million acres of timber and land in the United States and New Zealand. The company's holdings include approximately 200,000 acres with residential and commercial development potential along the Interstate 95 corridor between Savannah, Ga., and Daytona Beach, Fla. Its Performance Fibers business is one of the world's leading producers of high-value specialty cellulose fibers, which are used in products such as filters, pharmaceuticals and LCD screens. Approximately 50 percent of the company's sales are outside the U.S. to customers in approximately 20 countries. Rayonier is structured as a real estate investment trust. More information is available at www.rayonier.com.

Source: Rayonier

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