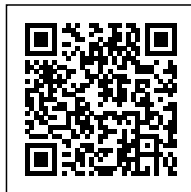


KPMG COMPLETES THIRD SPANISH MERGER

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The Spanish legal arm of KPMG has announced that it is to absorb Madrid-based commercial boutique Castro Sueiro & Varela Abogados, with the integration of the firm's 26 lawyers into KPMG's office in the Spanish capital.

Castro Sueiro & Varela specialises in commercial issues, notably complex finance structures and projects including renewable energy and infrastructure concessions, as well as asset finance and leasing. The eleven-partner firm is led by name partner Juan Carlos Castro Rico, who helped establish the firm alongside partners Miguel Sueiro and José Ramón Varela in 1987. The merger is the third completed by the Big Four firm over the past six months and which combined has added over 40 new lawyers, as KPMG looks to expand both its practice, business sector and geographic spread. The latest merger follows on from the integration last September of seven-lawyer Valencia firm Ubi Lex, and ten-lawyer labour and employment firm Laboral Cusán Abogados. The latter firm was led by Miguel Cuenca who now leads the labour practice at KPMG. KPMG is led in Spain by Managing Partner María José Aguiló.

