

## Ex-Ospreaie Execs Open Services Firm

Two key operations executives at **Ospraie Management** left the firm at yearend to start a business that offers fund managers a wide array of support services.

Ospraie's former chief financial officer, **Michael Coppola**, and assistant general counsel, **Scott Baglio**, opened **ParkRiver Fund Solutions** in New York on Jan. 10. They expect to be joined soon by seven other operations staffers from Ospraie, as well as at least four other hires.

The split with **Dwight Anderson's** Ospraie is entirely amicable. Indeed, ParkRiver immediately will begin handling operations for Ospraie, as well as Ospraie Services Group, a subsidiary that operates a hedge fund-seeding business.

ParkRiver is pitching its menu of services both to hedge funds and private equity firms. Among the functions Ospraie will outsource to ParkRiver are trade confirmation and settlement, financial reporting, financing and counterparty credit, legal and regulatory support, accounting, collateral management, investor relations and marketing, compliance and valuation services.

"Our structure provides managers access to an experienced team of professionals that includes specialists in each of our core service offerings and significantly reduces the time commitment, risk and cost that would be required to develop such resources internally," Coppola and Baglio wrote in a Jan. 10 letter to prospective clients.

ParkRiver joins a growing field of fund administrators and other service providers that are hoping to sell cash-strapped fund managers on an increasingly wide variety of back-office and middle-office services. The promised cost savings are appealing not only to startup firms on tight budgets, but also to established managers that saw assets under management — and fee revenue — fall sharply during the financial crisis.

Ospraie is a case in point. The New York firm currently manages about \$2 billion in hedge funds and private equity vehicles — down from a peak of more than \$7 billion before the market collapsed in late 2008.

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