Week in Review **AP Moller-Maersk AS**

Corporate week in review, December 8

Maersk thinks green; cannabis, high-level hack, Lord Browne and Reuters also in the news



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A round up of some of the week's most significant corporate events and news stories.

Maersk pledges to cut carbon emissions to zero



Container ships currently use bunker fuel, a residue from crude oil that is cheaper but dirtier than petrol and diesel © Bloomberg

AP Moller Maersk, the world's largest container shipping company, has pledged to cut net carbon emissions to zero by 2050, challenging an industry that is both one of the main transporters of

global trade and one of the biggest polluters to come up with radical solutions in the next decade.

“We will have to abandon fossil fuels. We will have to find a different type of fuel or a different way to power our assets. This is not just another cost-cutting exercise. It’s far from that. It’s an existential exercise, where we as a company need to set ourselves apart,” Soren Toft, Maersk’s chief operating officer, told the Financial Times.

Maersk’s target, although distant, is one of the most ambitious from a global industrial group promising to end carbon emissions altogether.

High times for cannabis continues with Cronos-Altria link-up



© Reuters

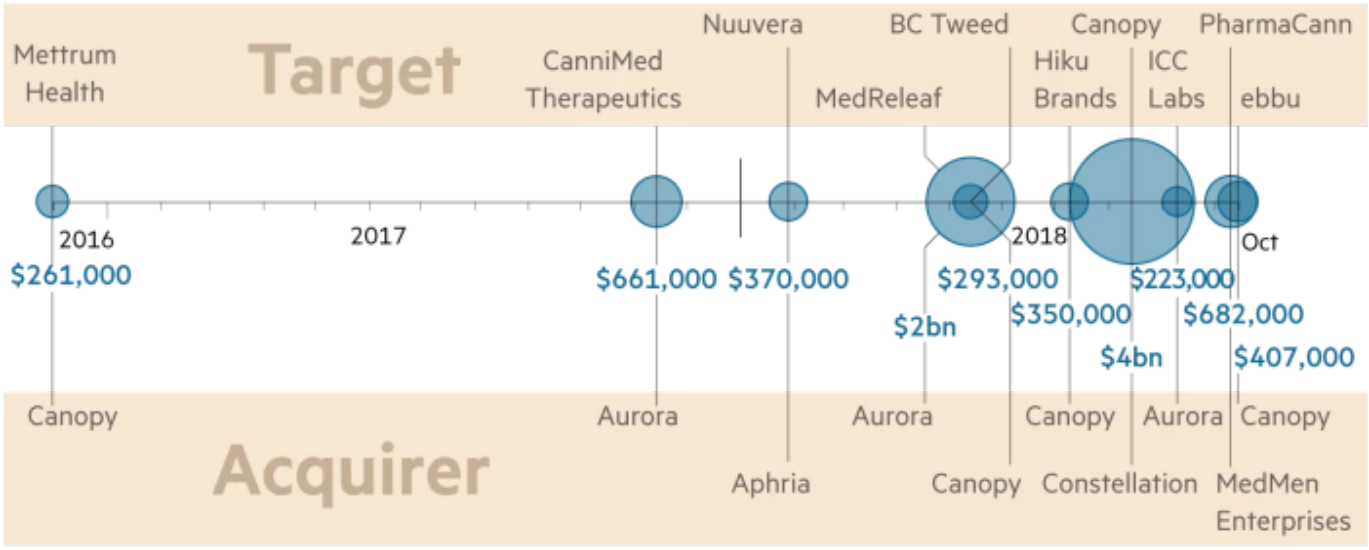
Shares in Canadian cannabis producer **Cronos** rose 50 per cent this week following reports on Monday that it was in early stage takeover talks with Marlboro cigarette maker **Altria**.

On Friday it was confirmed Altria had struck a deal to take a stake in Cronos for C$2.4bn as part of the tobacco group’s efforts to diversify its business away from traditional smokers.

The move comes as investors have piled into the sector amid a push to legalise cannabis. Canada became the largest country to completely legalise recreational pot use in October.

Most of the biggest M&A cannabis deals have happened this year

Top 10 transactions in the sector (by date of announcement)



Source: Dealogic

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‘London Blue’ hacker group targets chief financial officers

A hacker group has compiled a list of 35,000 chief financial officers, including some at the world’s biggest banks and mortgage companies, so as to target them with bogus requests to transfer money.

The “London Blue” hackers are the latest group to focus on “business email compromise” campaigns, according to the cyber threat detection company Agari, which found a list of 50,000 targets, most of whom worked in accounting departments.

Regulator warns banks over Brexit moves out of City

The UK’s financial regulator has urged a group of international banks in the City of London to limit the number of clients they move overseas as part of their Brexit preparations.

The Financial Conduct Authority wrote to the banks last week warning them to make “the minimum necessary changes” to where their clients are based. It said it was “prepared to intervene where we see steps being taken which could expose clients or markets to unacceptable execution risks”.

In the letter, first reported by Financial News, the FCA added that it expected the banks to concentrate on “day one readiness” for Brexit and to limit disruption “to avoid harm to the clients they serve or markets in which they operate”.

Lord Browne's DEA to buy Sierra Oil and Gas



A worker at the Salman oil field in the Persian Gulf, operated by the Iranian Offshore Oil Company © Bloomberg

DEA, the German oil and gas producer chaired by former BP chief John Browne, on Wednesday announced plans to buy Mexico's Sierra Oil and Gas in the country's largest upstream oil M&A deal since the liberalisation of the sector.

The transaction — which according to people familiar with it is valued at about $500m — will expand DEA's foothold in the Mexico as it looks to high-growth regions ahead of a multibillion-euro merger with rival Wintershall next year, which is set to create Europe's largest independent oil and gas producer.

"This is in line with the bigger end of the deals we've done . . . It will be very important to continue the growth of the company," Lord Browne said, adding that DEA would have to put "at least a billion" dollars behind Sierra.

Thomson Reuters to axe 12% of workforce

Thomson Reuters is cutting 3,200 jobs, or 12 per cent of its workforce, as the news and information provider aims to slash costs over the next two years.

The media group, controlled by Canada's wealthy Thomson family, also plans to reduce its number of offices by 30 per cent, the company said during an investor day on Tuesday.

Albert Frère, Belgium's richest man, dies aged 92



Albert Frère's wealth came from his ability to buy into companies cheaply and sell at great profit © Getty

Albert Frère, the self-made billionaire Belgian whose dealmaking helped reshape corporate Europe, died this week aged 92.

In a career lasting more than 60 years, swaths of European industry passed through Mr Frère's hands and he helped to transform the face of the continent's steel, utilities, oil and banking sectors.

Groupe Bruxelles Lambert, the company he built in a decades-long partnership with Canada's Desmarais family, said in a statement: "For more than three decades, under his leadership, GBL became one of the largest holdings in Europe. His professional and human qualities have deeply marked our group."

He is survived by his son Gerald and daughter Ségolène, both of whom are involved in the family businesses. Charles Albert, his younger son, died in a car crash in 1999.

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