

Barclays Ventures Transforms Christy with a £21m MBO

- Barclays Ventures (Manchester Team) backs £21m MBO of Christy Group Limited (Christy), UK's leading designer, importer and distributor of children's dress-up costumes.
- Christy's customer base includes Walmart/ASDA, Tesco, Marks and Spencer and El Corte Ingles with own-label and licensed children's dressing-up costumes.
- In addition to its Barnsley head office, Christy has offices in Hong-Kong, China and Europe and its operations extend to over 40 countries.
- The company has the pan-European licence for Disney dress-up and the pan European licence for Transformers, owned by Hasbro. Christy has a 60% share of the £30 million UK market for children's dress-up, which has shown a ten-fold increase in spending over the last 5 years.
- Jules Hydleman, CEO of Christy, said: "The growth in computer games over the last few years has done nothing to diminish children's appetite for dressing-up. Our proposition is to continue to respond to this demand by bringing high quality innovative products to the market at affordable prices. We are all very excited about our further expansion worldwide."
- Andy Lees, Regional Director, Barclays Ventures said: "Christy's expansion in the last six years has been extremely impressive. The team has led the development of the dressing-up market in the UK and is the clear market leader. There are exciting opportunities available throughout Europe, in emerging markets and beyond and we look forward to supporting the team achieve this growth."



From left to right: Andy Bate (Barclays Ventures), Andy Lees (Barclays Ventures), Gary Panons (Christy), Tony Lewis (Christy), Jules Hydleman (Christy), Andy Pybus (Christy) and Shaun Lawson (Christy).

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