

AUSTRALIA



Mark Dutton

Navis plans new hires, scouts Australia office

[Navis Capital Partners](#) is continuing its expansion with new hires as it scouts for an office location Down Under to support its Australian investments. The firm is also hiring sectoral specialists to support its preferred investment focuses.

"We've appointed Scott Wilson as director of our food portfolio. He used to be a senior director at YUM!, which owns and franchises KFC, Pizza Hut and others in the region," [Nicholas Bloy](#), Partner at

Navis, told *AVCJ*. "He is one of the most knowledgeable veterans in his ability to add value to fast food-related and fast-casual operations."

Navis already has a considerable portfolio of fast food and other consumer-related investments, including KFC in Hong Kong, Dome regionwide, Dunkin' Donuts and Au Bon Pain franchises in Thailand (see *AVCJ May 22*), Nirula's in India (see *AVCJ Jul 24*) and Wendy's ice cream business

in Australia. "Our fast food businesses are excellent examples of branded scaleable retail concepts," noted Bloy. Outside its focus on Asian consumer market growth, the firm is broadening its portfolio with its Australian investments.

"We're opening an office in Australia, which [Mark Dutton](#) is going to lead," Bloy continued. "We're still debating the location – both [Rodney Muse](#) (one of the three co-founders of Navis) and I spent time working in BCG's Sydney office, so we have an emotional affinity for the place." The new office will also

be supported by new hires, but according to Bloy, "we don't like to hire too much at senior levels, so Mark Dutton will lead and there may be some secondments from Navis. Probably it'll require an extra two or three hires on the ground in Australia. We're also doing a bit more hiring in India. The total professional strength of Navis will go from some 33 professionals to something like 40 over the next 12 months." - PSM



Scott Wilson

JAPAN



Katsuyoshi Tanaka

Tanaka joins Steel Partners Japan as MD

Warren Lichtenstein's Steel Partners has stepped up its Japan operation with the appointment of Katsuyoshi Tanaka as a Managing Director at Steel Partners Japan KK. Tanaka will be overseeing investment from Tokyo of Lichtenstein's local public markets investment fund Steel Partners Japan Strategic Fund (Offshore) LP.

Tanaka was formerly with Mitsubishi Corp. for 18 years, involved chiefly in investment roles. Most recently Business Development Manager of Mitsubishi's Energy Business Development Unit, where he led investments from Mitsubishi's Clean Energy Fund, he also served as Chief

Strategist for Mitsubishi's division iMIC, specializing in investments in US mid-market energy companies. Tanaka received a Bachelor's degree in law at Chuo University in Tokyo and an MBA at Kellogg School of Management in Northwestern University.

"Mr. Tanaka brings to Steel Partners Japan an exceptionally strong and diverse skill set, as well as deep

insight into the Japanese market," said Lichtenstein in a statement. "He will be an important addition to our growing Tokyo office."

A Steel Partners spokesperson in Tokyo declined to comment to *AVCJ*, explaining, "the fund's policy is very low profile, so we don't give much information to the media."

- PSM

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