

Robert Korn and Bill Hoffman

(Carlyle Aviation Partners)

Robert Korn and Bill Hoffman have been the architects of the rise of Apollo Aviation Group (now Carlyle Aviation Partners) since its inception in 2002.

The company they co-founded has grown from a mid-life trading company to a very active operating lessor.

The lessor's trajectory has further accelerated over the past 18 months.

Hoffman and Korn took full control of Apollo at the end of 2017.

In October 2018 the Carlyle Group agreed to acquire 100% of Apollo from its owners Korn and Hoffman. The transaction closed on 19 December.

Apollo became a new business line, operating as Carlyle Aviation Partners, within Carlyle's global credit segment.

The acquisition allows Carlyle's global credit platform to offer long-duration exposure to commercial aviation markets through a variety of credit, equity and structured finance instruments.

As of January 2019, Carlyle Aviation Partners had total assets under management of \$5.6 billion, with over 80 employees and offices in the US, Ireland and Singapore. Its portfolio included 246 aircraft owned, managed or committed to purchase with 107 airlines lessees in 57 countries.

Carlyle co-chief executive officer Kewsong Lee said: "This corporate acquisition expands Carlyle's Global Credit capabilities, particularly in the growing asset-based credit market. Apollo Aviation Group is a scalable platform with strong growth prospects given its 16-year history and track record of performance."

Hoffman said: "The Carlyle Group has demonstrated itself to be one of the leading alternative asset managers worldwide and Robert and I couldn't think of a better home for the business we've built over the past 16 years."



Robert Korn



Bill Hoffman

"Joining forces with The Carlyle Group allows us to continue to support our airline customers and play an even greater strategic role in the aviation sector," said Korn.

Independently of the ownership change the company had an impressive year. According to *Airfinance Journal's* Fleet Tracker, the company was the most active buyer in 2018 with a total of 83 aircraft for an estimated \$1.6 billion by market value.

In 2018, the company also launched two asset-backed securitisations AASET 2018-1 and AASET 2018-2 with proceeds exceeding \$1 billion. The refinancings involved about 60 mid-life aircraft. ▲