

VARIETY

The Wizards Behind the Mega Deals

In the past year, these experts have navigated showbiz's mergers, acquisitions and sales



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This trio helped engineer the recent proposed acquisition of Peter Jackson's Weta Digital visual effects powerhouse by Unity, a leading platform for creating and operating interactive realtime 3D content. The transaction, seen as a major move in the burgeoning area of virtual production, would transfer to Unity Weta's talent pool of 275 engineers, dozens of cutting-edge digital tools and a library of digital assets. Per the agreement, Unity will pay \$1.625 billion for the package. Merchant bank the Raine Group served as exclusive financial adviser to Weta Digital.

Eye-popping visuals: "This was a special deal to work on," says McCrath. "The transaction paves the way for Unity to integrate Weta Digital tools onto their platform so that more creators have access to Weta's industry-defining technology and can leverage these tools to create stunning new content."