

Axa Rosenberg takes asset management crown

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Quantitative specialist fund manager Axa Rosenberg was named European asset manager of the year at last night's Financial News Excellence in Institutional Asset Management awards.

Still led by its pioneering founder Barr Rosenberg, the asset manager has offered consistent outperformance and is recognized for the meticulous attention paid to its processes, with the Barr Rosenberg Research Center responsible for creating and supporting the equity technologies for all of the group's products.

Close competition for the award came from BlackRock which took second place, and AllianceBernstein which came in third.

BlackRock's Larry Fink was named chief executive of the year,

beating Standard Life Investments' Keith Skeoch and Thames River Capital's Charlie Porter to the prize.

Specialist firm of the year was Dalton Strategic Partnership, pipping Edinburgh Partners and Rogge Global Partners to the award.

Deal of the year was the management buyout of Jupiter, narrowly beating the Hellman & Friedman-backed buyout of Gartmore.

In the asset class categories, asset manager of the year Axa Rosenberg came top of the quantitative managers, winning out against Janus Capital Group's subsidiary Intech and State Street Global Advisors which came equal second in the voting.

Newton was dubbed equity manager of the year over Axa Framlington and T Rowe Price, while

Insight Investment took the fixed income crown.

Property has boomed as an asset class over the last 12 months and Morley Fund Management was deemed fund manager of the year in the sector, with ING Real Estate and Schroders in second and third place.

Of the investment consultants under consideration, Mercer won out over rival Watson Wyatt, with Alpha Portfolio Advisors coming third in the category.

The regional asset managers produced few surprises. After a year of excellent investment performance and plaudits from both investors and consultants, Standard Life Investments was dubbed UK asset management firm of the year over Newton and Legal & General Investment Management.

Credit Agricole Asset Manage-

ment was French asset management firm of the year, taking the crown from Axa Investment Managers which has won the prize for the last five years running.

Lupus Alpha was the German winner after being nominated for the first time, and Goldman Sachs Asset Management was Dutch asset manager of the year, beating Barclays Global Investors and BlackRock to the prize. Pioneer Investments was the winner in the Italian category for the sixth year in a row, beating San Paolo IMI and RAS Asset Management to the top spot.

In the Nordic region AllianceBernstein was crowned the year's asset manager, while Pictet Asset Management beat Switzerland's two largest banks, UBS Global Asset Management and Credit Suisse, to the Swiss prize.