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Grant Thornton and Sanguino join forces to create pioneering professional services firm in Seville

The new partnership brings together and enhances the experience of both firms in their respective markets and specialities.

The collaboration allows Grant Thornton to extend its geographical presence for the first time in its history to the Andalsian capital.

For its part, Sanguino adds to its recognised and prestigious legal practice additional services and a national and international structure.

Grant Thornton Sanguino aims to lead the professional services market in Andalucia.

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Grant Thornton, one of the leading firms of auditors, consultants and lawyers in the world and in Spain, part of the Grant Thornton International network, and Sanguino Abogados, one of the leading law firms in Seville, join forces to promote a new professional services firm that aspires to lead the Andalusian market. The new Firm offers Andalusian companies a complete, multidisciplinary portfolio of services, with a strong focus on innovation, sustainability, technology and urban planning.

The roadmap designed by the two new Partners marks the immediate launch of a Firm at the full disposal of Sevillian and Andalusian businesses, regardless of their location, size, sector and specific needs. This exclusive collaboration allows Grant Thornton to increase its geographical reach in Andalusia beyond Malaga, having a presence in

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Seville for the first time; and, in turn, the agreement allows Sanguino to add to its prestigious legal practice in Andalusia additional services that Sevillian and Andalusian companies are increasingly demanding in a changing and highly digitalised environment.

The two firms have been working together in the past on projects for specific Andalusian clients or exchanging know-how on a variety of matters. As a result of this ongoing relationship, Grant Thornton and Sanguino understand that now is the time to work more closely together, because they share similar characteristics in their provision of services, such as proximity and personal concern for their clients; vocation for their professionals and internal staff; and a unique character for constant innovation, either through the updating of the most classic legal services or by incorporating more innovative advice that fits new business models, and more disruptive business processes.

A Firm with a reciprocal strength

The newly created project therefore stands out as a Firm offering professional services in Auditing, Business Consulting, Innovation and Technology; financial advice and outsourcing; all of which are professional service lines that are complemented by one of the most powerful and complete business law areas in southern Spain. In addition to the most popular services such as Corporate and Commercial Law, Labour, Civil, Bankruptcy, Tax and Family Law, the legal arm of the new Firm is strengthened by one of the most important practices in Andalusia in Administrative Law, Town Planning and Environmental Law.

The combined legal strengths of the two firms are reflected in a number of newly created legal solutions, following a mutual interest in R&D&I in legal services. Specifically, Grant Thornton brings experience in legal aspects in Smart Contracts, in legal solutions that apply various technologies, especially Blockchain, and the strength of a national Legal business line that has not stopped growing in recent years and extending its scope of action to cities such as Vigo, the Canary Islands or its recent reinforcement in Madrid. Not forgetting that Grant Thornton belongs to one of the most important international professional services networks in the world, with a presence in more than 140 countries and a workforce of more than 62,000 people.

For its part, Sanguino contributes to these innovative services with outstanding legal solutions, also the result of its innovative DNA, such as the measurement of the carbon footprint of Andalusian companies and administrations, a pioneering service that allows the impact that these organisations have on the environment in which they operate to be calculated, in order to try to obtain compensations for their emissions that are useful in the future development of their activities. In addition to other solutions in the areas of

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subsidy reimbursement, port and free zone law, tax consolidation, Patent Box, Real Estate, Titles of Nobility and Succession, Intellectual and Industrial Property and new technologies, among others.

The spirit in which this alliance was born allows it to create opportunities and offer legal certainty in a scenario of economic uncertainty, regulatory changes and a constantly challenging environment for Andalusian executives. Companies will find in this new Firm, which is born with a clear and differential Sevillian character, a permanent point of reference and projection that will accompany any of their future needs.

Ramón Galcerán, chairman of Grant Thornton, explains that "we wanted to open up a market in the Andalusian capital and, fortunately, we are going to do so with an ideal partner in Sanguino, who knows the terrain well and with whom we share a common vision and values. The new Firm is starting with solid foundations based on Grant Thornton's classic and recognised commitment to providing a comprehensive and quality service to all Andalusian companies".

For his part, **Ernesto Sanguino, Chairman of Sanguino**, values the "suitability and relevance of giving shape at this time to a collaboration that had already been developing months ago through assignments and projects that have been satisfactory for both parties. It is a pleasure to multiply our professional capacities, to add new legal specialities and other complementary service lines, making Sanguino a project with true national and international capacity, stronger and more differentiated".

Sanguino's managing partner, Vanessa Villegas, believes that this alliance "positions us as one of the law firms with the most disruptive catalogue of services in Andalusia, both in the field of administrative, urban planning and environmental law, as well as in all regulations related to technologies such as Blockchain. We are looking forward to making all these useful developments available to our current and future clients, which will allow them to explore new opportunities".

Finally, **Álvaro Rodríguez, National Managing Partner of Grant Thornton's Legal practice**, is very proud "to once again extend the territorial presence of our Firm through legal services. As we have done in the past, we have been able to find a Firm with a similar idiosyncrasy and way of understanding business law, with a very complementary portfolio of services and which really means the creation of an alternative but full-service player, a true reference in Andalusia, which will surely benefit our clients".

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The new Firm, which already operates in the Andalusian market with full availability, will work in a first commercial phase through a legal structure that maintains the corporate independence and commercial identity of both firms, Grant Thornton and Sanguino, in order to take advantage of all possible synergies associated with the potential and territorial positioning of both. The headquarters of this strategic alliance will be located in Sanguino's current offices, in Casa Ybarra at Avenida Menéndez Pelayo 4, one of the most representative buildings of the Seville of the 1929 Exhibition, recently recovered by Sanguino to open it to the city of Seville and now, as the nerve centre of this alliance between the two firms.