



MEET OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM

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CHRISTIAN MALEK

Founder & CEO
Novastone Partners Inc.

Christian Malek is the Founder and CEO of NCA, founded in 2019 to address succession challenges faced by family-owned businesses and SMEs. With a background rooted in private equity, Christian's journey was inspired by his grandfather's healthcare business in Switzerland and his international exposure through his father's role at the Swiss embassy. After earning an MBA from IMD and starting his career in banking, Christian recognized the potential to streamline the traditional Search Fund model, making it more accessible for both entrepreneurs and investors. Under his leadership, NCA has grown rapidly and gained significant traction in the industry.

Christian was featured in two impressive Davos interviews in both 2023 and 2025 and has been awarded as the 2025 Deal Maker of the year by The Smart Business Dealmakers Conference.



DANIEL GÄRTNER

Managing Partner
Novastone Partners Inc.

Daniel Gärtner, as Managing Partner of NCA, is a seasoned executive with over 25 years of experience in M&A, private equity, and SME leadership. Notably, he led the acquisition, strategic repositioning, and successful exit of a leading European plastic profiles manufacturer achieving a 7-fold value increase over 4 years. Previously he played a key role in managing private equity investments for a Dutch investment boutique, driving portfolio company growth, executing acquisitions, and leading successful exits. His deep expertise in deal execution, post-merger integration, and value creation has driven sustainable growth across multiple industries. Daniel holds an MBA from the University of Klagenfurt, Austria, and St. Gallen Business School.



GEORGE BASSILY

Managing Partner | Finance
Novastone Partners Inc.

George Bassily, P.Eng., MBA, is a seasoned Executive specializing in fundraising, management, M&A, private equity, and scaling businesses. With extensive experience in the small-cap private equity market, he has led successful acquisitions, business integrations, and operational transformations, directly driving organizational growth and maximizing enterprise value. George has a proven track record in spearheading strategic business planning and development tactics resulting in expanded market share, optimized profitability, and establishment of high performance-driven teams across diverse industries.

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KRISHAN ARORA

Head of Marketing
Novastone Partners Inc.

Krishan Arora is a Harvard-educated entrepreneur and investor with over a decade of experience in venture fundraising and growth marketing. He is the Founder & former CEO of The Arora Project, a media agency that raised and invested over \$125M in high-growth ventures and was acquired by Republic.com in a multi-million dollar deal in 2021. Following the acquisition, Krishan joined Novastone Capital Advisors as Managing Director, where he leads SME acquisitions and scale-ups globally. He's now the director of the Marketing for Novastone Partners Inc. To date, NCA has deployed over \$400M in capital across 22 companies. He is also a contributor to the Forbes Agency Council.



TORGE BARKHOLTZ

Managing Director
Novastone Partners Inc.

Torge Barkholtz has extensive experience in business development, fundraising, and entrepreneurial leadership, with a background in investor relations and strategic advisory roles in New York and Zurich. As a founder and leader of several ventures, he has driven growth in sectors like micromobility and sustainable business solutions. Currently, as COO at Novastone Partners, he oversees operations and focuses on the succession-driven investment advisory for SMEs to create long-term value.



DR. LINN KARSTADT

Business Development Director
Novastone Partners Inc.

Dr. Linn Karstadt is a Finance Professional specialized in electronic equity & algo trading with a sales and private equity advising background. Experienced Sales, Trader and Consultant with a demonstrated history of working in the financial markets and technology industry. Skills in asset management, sales, digitalization, AI, performance measurement, regulations, compliance and derivative and equity trading.



TAYLOR PERRY

Head of Investment Team
NCA

Taylor Perry is the Head of M&A for Novastone Capital Advisors (NCA) globally. Taylor is currently based in Northern Virginia in the Washington, D.C. area. He leads global underwriting, diligence, structuring, and execution of transactions at NCA, which he joined in 2022. He also serves on four boards of NCA portfolio companies and successfully executed the first NCA portfolio company exit in late 2024. Prior to joining NCA he served as CFO of a startup supply chain finance business, and prior to that role he worked in private equity both pre- and post-MBA. He has an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management and a BS from the University of Virginia.

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PIOTR ZAWADZKI

Investment Team Director
NCA | Europe

Piotr Zawadzki is the Head of Portfolio Management at (NCA), responsible for driving value creation, overseeing portfolio performance, and providing strategic guidance across NCA's investments. As part of his role, he also serves on the boards of several European companies within the NCA portfolio. Prior to joining NCA in 2023, Piotr gained over 20 years of experience in the industrial and technology sectors, holding leadership roles in large multinationals and managing businesses across various countries with a strong focus on sales and business development. He also brings entrepreneurial experience, having successfully run his own companies. Piotr holds an MSc from the Warsaw School of Economics in Poland, complemented by studies at Aarhus School of Business in Denmark, and has completed AMP program at IESE Business School at the University of Navarra in Spain and executive program at Harvard Business School.



ALBERT FARRERAS

Investment Team Director
NCA | Europe

Albert Farreras is an Investment Manager and Head of Europe at NCA, overseeing operations and M&A deals in Europe, with IO acquisitions totalling \$180 million in enterprise value. Prior to NCA, he worked at Nomura and HSBC, advising on high-profile M&A transactions. Albert holds a Master's in Finance from ESADE and is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).



ELISA LORENZI

Head of Success Management
NCA

Elisa Lorenzi has over 15 years of experience in the banking and financial industry. Prior to joining NCA as Director of the Success Management Team, she worked at J.P. Morgan Suisse as Senior Capital Advisor for Latin American UHNW clients and at the Inter-American Development Bank as a junior economist. Elisa holds a Master's in International Economics from Bocconi University. At NCA, she leads a team dedicated to ensuring the success of NCA's Searchers, supporting them through onboarding, coaching, best practice sharing, live events, and managing the NCA training curriculum as part of their professional development within the firm's unique Search Fund model.

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ANDREA GAIA-BOTTON

Head of Assessment Center
NCA

Andrea Gaia-Botton is a dedicated Talent Acquisition professional with experience in sourcing, attracting, and recruiting top-tier CEO and operative talent across different industries. Known for a strategic approach to identifying and engaging high-quality candidates, Andrea excels in building strong relationships and fostering a positive candidate experience. With experience in high volume end-to-end cycle recruitment, she is committed to select top notch mid-career operators across Europe and North America to join the NCA program.



ARANXTA AGUILLAR

Head of Legal
NCA

Aranxta Aguillar joined NCA as General Counsel in September 2023, bringing over 30 years of legal and company secretarial experience. She leads a high-performing, diverse legal team supporting NCA's search fund program across the acquisition, management, and exit phases. Previously, Arantxa advised SICPA and held key legal roles at Hewlett-Packard and Philip Morris International, specializing in corporate governance, compliance, and M&A matters. Arantxa is a Spanish-qualified lawyer, admitted to the Madrid Bar, and holds a Law degree from the Faculty of Law at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, as well as a Post-graduate diploma from Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Fluent in Spanish, English, French, Italian, and Portuguese, she is equipped to navigate complex legal landscapes on a global scale.



CHRISTOPHER MEIER

Head of IR
NCA

Christopher Meier is Managing Director and Global Head of Investor Relations at Novastone Capital Advisors (NCA), where he leads investor engagement across a global portfolio of SME acquisitions. Prior to joining NCA in 2022, he served as Director of Investor Relations for North America at APS Asset Management and spent over five years at Rothschild & Co in various investment banking roles, including Vice President. He began his career as a Financial Analyst at IBM. Christopher holds dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Finance and Global Perspectives from Bentley University and is a CFA charter candidate.