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Former Credit Suisse Lending Exec Joins Aion Partners

Peter A. Smith, a former managing director at Credit Suisse, has joined Aion Partners as principal and managing director to focus on sourcing investment opportunities and arranging financing for the company's acquisitions.

Aion was formed earlier this year by the principals of DCD America Inc., the U.S. property investment unit of London family office DCD Group. Since then, it has acquired a number of loans on apartment properties, with an eye toward taking over their collateral.

The company is a real estate operator, but finds that among the more effective ways of acquiring properties in today's market is to buy distressed mortgages. That's what Smith will be doing. "His comprehensive background encompasses workouts, interim financing, mezzanine loans, CMBS and portfolio purchases," explained Michael Betancourt, a principal and founder of Aion. Smith "will help us expand our growing portfolio."

Previously, Smith was a founding member and head of loan originations at UBS's global commercial real estate group.