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# Piper Jaffray to Spin Off Private-Capital Business

By

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Piper Jaffray Cos. unveiled plans to spin off its private-capital business by year's end to the segment's key principals as it is renamed North Sky Capital.

The investment bank, which said the change would be "seamless to investors," will continue its current capital commitments to the funds of the private-capital subsidiary, which the new firm will manage as its own. Those funds have about \$700 million in committed capital.

Investors will be working with the same team at the new company, to be led by Scott Barrington, a Piper Jaffray managing director who has been a member of the bank's private-equity business for 11 years.

In Piper's most recently quarterly results, weighty interest expenses pushed profit further down than analysts expected, in a period Chairman and Chief Executive Andrew S. Duff said in July was one of "mixed performance." Fiscal third-quarter results are due Oct. 20.

At 4 p.m. in New York Stock Exchange trading, Piper Jaffray shares were up three cents, or 0.1%, at \$29.09. The stock has sunk 42% this year amid reduced trading activity.

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