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New chief executive in fashion at Financo

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By James Covert

Financo has a new president and chief executive.

The New York investment bank -- among the dominant dealmakers in the fashion industry -- said yesterday it hired Colin Welch to head operations.

Welch, who will join Financo in September, is currently a London-based managing director at Credit Suisse who heads retail and luxury goods for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

The Harvard Business School grad has previously done stints at Lehman Brothers and JPMorgan Chase.

Welch's bulge-bracket banking experience "will bring a certain amount of additional sophistication and deal knowledge to Financo and its clients," Chairman Gilbert Harrison said.

Welch added he's seizing on a chance to be more "entrepreneurial" at the boutique firm.

"In the [retail and fashion dealmaking] market there's a significant void for independent and informed advice," Welch told The Post.