



UK CoStar  
commercial real estate news  
London, U.K.  
April 29, 2019

29 APR 2019 | PAUL NORMAN

# Avison Young promotes Gerry Hughes to Europe President to lead expansion drive

Hughes, who spearheaded GVA's recent merger talks with Avison Young, will focus on 'ambitious' growth plans



Gerry Hughes was CEO of GVA when Avison Young bought the company in February

Avison Young Principal Gerry Hughes has been appointed as President, Europe, to spearhead what the firm said today was an "ambitious European expansion programme".

Hughes will report directly to Mark E. Rose, Chair and CEO of Canadian real estate practice Avison Young.

In his new remit, Rose today said Hughes will now focus on "developing and delivering Avison Young's aggressive growth plans in continental Europe and Ireland".

Hughes was formerly CEO of GVA, the UK agent Avison Young bought on 1 February.

He is also a member of Avison Young's global executive committee.

Avison Young said that since late 2018, Hughes has been focused on integrating the GVA and Avison Young businesses in the UK under the Avison Young banner.

“This is an exciting time for our business,” said Rose in a statement. “Our growth plan is strategic and long-term. We aim to amplify our operations through the recruitment of individuals and acquisition of teams and whole businesses, as well as continue to expand geographically. Our recent merger with GVA in the U.K. has given Avison Young an excellent gateway to develop our continental Europe platform. Now that the U.K. integration is nearly complete, this is the right time for Gerry to turn his leadership talents to the next stage of our ambitious expansion: Europe.”

In addition to the UK, Avison Young has European offices in Germany, Poland, Romania and eight other countries through the GVA Worldwide platform.

Avison Young said it plans to significantly expand its footprint across Europe as part a strategy to "move from its current standing as a C\$1-billion turnover business to a C\$2-billion business in its next phase of growth".

“I am tremendously excited by the potential presented for our business in Europe,” added Hughes. “This is an opportunity that

I have long looked forward to – to help build a marketleading real estate advisory platform across Europe. What we have achieved at GVA over the last few years, combined with the partnership and business philosophy of Avison Young, provides the template for a European business with a real sense of social purpose aligned partnership."

He added: "It has been exhilarating to lead GVA through, perhaps, the most challenging period in its 200-year history. I am especially proud to have realized an aspiration to get to a position where we are able to offer equity to our current and future leaders, enabling them to participate directly in Avison Young's global expansion."

Avison Young has more than 600 Principals globally and 5,000 real estate professionals in 120 offices in 20 countries.

[pnorman@costar.co.uk](mailto:pnorman@costar.co.uk)

---