

Press Release

17 January 2006

**MilleniumAssociates Further Strengthens its Global Advisory Board
with Senior Appointment by Naming David Gelber, former COO of
ICAP plc, as Latest Member**

MilleniumAssociates AG, the Swiss based independent international M&A Advisory firm to the global financial services industry, has appointed David Gelber as a member of its Global Advisory Board.

David Gelber has accomplished an eminent career in the financial services industry, retiring as Chief Operating Officer of ICAP plc in July 2005, after 11 years in which, together with the CEO Michael Spencer, they grew the business through acquisitions, reverse takeovers and mergers to create today's leading inter-dealer broker with a market capitalisation of £2+ billion and 3,500+ employees in 25 offices worldwide. David Gelber remains a non-executive Director of ICAP plc. Among other interests, David Gelber currently also serves as Chairman of Krupaco Finance Limited, an investment subsidiary of Kruger Inc of Montreal, one of the world's largest privately held pulp and paper businesses.

Ray Soudah, founder of MilleniumAssociates said, "David Gelber is an extremely senior and well qualified professional and experienced financial executive with a high level of experience in the international financial services industry and his addition will enhance our global efforts to expand our truly focussed and specialised advisory services to our most important clients. He is a respected and well-connected person globally and he will considerably strengthen MilleniumAssociates' capabilities and reach particularly in the main financial markets of the world."

David Gelber stated, "Having known MilleniumAssociates for many years, I am delighted to be associated with this truly independent advisory firm with a prime international reputation and global reach, and which, whilst Swiss based, has demonstrated its ability to serve the financial services industry, and in particular asset management, in a specialist and professional way on a global basis."

-- Ends --

Note to Editors

MilleniumAssociates is the only Swiss based independent M&A global advisory firm specialising in Mergers and Acquisitions and strategy consulting for the financial services industry exclusively. MilleniumAssociates' fully dedicated team of specialists are currently involved in numerous active financial services advisory projects with assignments supporting clients with expanding global strategies, as well as those seeking to determine their ideal strategic options including partnerships, alliances and IPO plans. The firm donates at least one percent of annual gross profits to charity.

Selected previous assignments of MilleniumAssociates include:

- Sale on behalf of Dexia-BIL of Dexia Private Banking (UK) to Rathbone Brothers plc (UK)
- Sale of Abacus Financial Services Group Limited, Jersey, to Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)
- Sale of Helix Associates Limited, UK, to Jefferies Group, Inc., USA
- Sale on behalf of Dexia-BIL of its French IFA subsidiary Dexia Partenaires France to French insurance group CNP Assurances
- Sale of Seydler AG Wertpapierhandelsbank, Frankfurt/Germany, to Close Brothers Group plc, UK
- Acquisition by Barclays Bank plc of the Wealth Business of ING Securities Bank (France)
- Sale on behalf of Caixa Holding SA, Crédit Andorra SA and Dexia Banque Internationale à Luxembourg SA of their joint subsidiary, Société Monégasque de Banque Privée, Monaco, to BNP Paribas Private Bank (Switzerland) SA.
- Acquisition of a majority stake in Charlotte Capital Management by Sanders Morris Harris Group, Houston, Texas.
- Acquisition of the Luxembourg private banking business of Oldenburgische Landesbank, a subsidiary of Dresdner Bank, by Landesbank Rheinland-Pfalz International SA, Luxembourg.
- Strategic consultant and advisor to Compagnie Bancaire Genève (CBG) which subsequently sold a 67% stake to Société Générale.
- Acquisition of Lloyds Bank SA, the French wealth management business of the British bank Lloyds TSB, by UBS AG.
- Acquisition by Robeco of a majority stake in Boston Partners Asset Management LP.
- Acquisition of Chicago-based Frye-Louis Capital Management Inc by Credit Suisse.
- Acquisition of JO Hambro Investment Management, UK, by Credit Suisse.

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