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Press Release

30 July, 2003

MilleniumAssociates AG and Maslinski & Co Ltd Launch Strategic Collaboration Agreement in Financial Services and **Wealth Management**

MilleniumAssociates AG, the only Swiss based independent M&A Advisory firm to the global wealth and asset management industry announces, with immediate effect, a strategic collaboration agreement with Maslinski & Co. Limited, the UK based strategic consultancy to the wealth management and financial industry.

Ray Soudah, founder of MilleniumAssociates said, "I am extremely positive and delighted about cooperating with Maslinski and Co. given their deep knowledge of the financial and wealth management industry. This raises the inevitable interest of many market participants to consider alliances including mergers and acquisitions as viable strategic options in an increasingly complex and competitive market place."

Michael Maslinski, founder of Maslinski & Co. added, "With MilleniumAssociates' proven expertise in the financial industry and our strategic advisory presence we shall be able to offer our clients significant added value in support of their strategic business plans worldwide. Cooperating with MilleniumAssociates is a natural evolution of our service offering."

-- Ends --



Note to Editors

MilleniumAssociates is the only Swiss based independent M&A global advisory firm specialising in Mergers and Acquisitions and strategy consulting with emphasis on private banking, family offices, asset and fund management and other Wealth Management businesses including life insurance.

MilleniumAssociates' fully dedicated team of specialists are currently involved in numerous active Wealth Management advisory projects with assignments supporting clients with expanding global strategies, as well as those seeking to determine their ideal strategic options including partnerships and alliances. The firm recently stated that it intended to donate at least one percent of annual gross profits to charity.

Previous assignments of MilleniumAssociates include the acquisition of **JO Hambro Investment Management** by Credit Suisse and the transaction between Chicagobased **Frye-Louis Capital Management Inc.** and Credit Suisse Private Banking, as well as the acquisition by Robeco of a majority stake in **Boston Partners Asset Management L.P.** where MilleniumAssociates acted as special adviser to Robeco after having brought the parties together in a private transaction. Further, the firm has advised UBS in its acquisition of **Lloyds Bank S.A.**, the French wealth management business of the British bank Lloyds TSB, and has acted as strategic consultant and advisor to **Compagnie Bancaire Genève (CBG)** which subsequently sold a 67% stake to Société Générale. Most recently MilleniumAssociates has advised **Julius Baer Group** on the sale of its institutional pan-European brokerage operations to Lightyear Capital, a U.S. based private equity investment firm.

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