

Press Release

15 March 2005

MilleniumAssociates Expands Further and Announces Collaboration Agreement with Lawrence Miller, Chairman of South African Lawfin Group

MilleniumAssociates AG, the only Swiss based independent international M&A Advisory firm to the global financial, wealth and asset management industry announces, with immediate effect, a strategic collaboration agreement with South Africa-based Lawrence N. Miller. Mr. Miller is the Founder and Chairman of the Lawfin International Group of Companies, a boutique financial services group with offices in Cape Town and London and specialising in cross-border loans, and in mergers & acquisitions advice for South African companies abroad and foreign companies in South Africa.

Ray Soudah, founder of MilleniumAssociates said, "I am delighted to collaborate with Lawrence Miller who is becoming a Senior Advisor to our growing firm. He is a respected and well-connected person inside as well as outside South Africa and he will considerably strengthen and extend the global reach of our company into a geographic region that will clearly see much future interest and activity. The strategic collaboration between MilleniumAssociates and Lawrence Miller will ensure that the current interest of foreign banks and financial institutions in the South Africa Financial Services Sector is supported by local knowledge and expertise, to the profit of our clients."

Lawrence Miller stated, "MilleniumAssociates has truly become the leading Swiss based independent M&A adviser in the wealth management and financial services industry with a prime international reputation and global reach. I very much look forward to working together with this efficient team of highly qualified and motivated professionals and to contributing to our clients' success".

Miller added: "The current wave of realignment and consolidation in the South African Financial Services Sector creates a clear opportunity for an independent and sophisticated M&A advisory firm such as MilleniumAssociates to offer its expertise to the local industry players".

-- 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, wealth management, life and non-life insurance, private equity and brokerage.

MilleniumAssociates' fully dedicated team of specialists are currently involved in numerous active wealth management and 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 and alliances. The firm donates at least one percent of annual gross profits to charity.

Previous assignments of Millenium Associates include the acquisition of **JO Hambro Investment Management** in the UK and of Chicago-based **Frye-Louis Capital Management Inc.** by **Credit Suisse**; the acquisition by **Robeco** of a majority stake in **Boston Partners Asset Management L.P.**; as well as **UBS AG**'s acquisition of **Lloyds Bank S.A.**, the French wealth management business of the British bank Lloyds TSB. Further, Millenium Associates acted as strategic consultant and advisor to **Compagnie Bancaire Genève (CBG)** which subsequently sold a 67% stake to Société Générale; it 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; it advised **Banque Cantonale Vaudoise** in the sale of the private banking portfolio of its subsidiary **Banque Galland & Cie SA** to Geneva-based Banque Franck, the Swiss private banking subsidiary of Johnson Financial Group (USA); and it advised **EFG Private Bank Ltd** on its acquisition of **Platts Fieello Ltd**, a specialized financial planning consultancy focused on ultra HNWI's. In 2004, Millenium Associates has concluded numerous transactions including the acquisition of **Laing & Cruickshank Investment Management** in the UK by **UBS AG**; the sale of **Tempus Privatbank AG** in Zurich to **M.M. Warburg**, Hamburg; the acquisition of the Luxembourg private banking portfolio of **Oldenburgische Landesbank** (a subsidiary of Dresdner Bank) by **Landesbank Rheinland-Pfalz International SA**, Luxembourg; the acquisition of a majority stake in **Charlotte Capital Management** by **Sanders Morris Harris Group**, Houston/Texas; and the sale on behalf of Caixa Holding S.A. ("**la Caixa**"), Crédit Andorra S.A. ("**Crédit Andorra**") and Dexia Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A. ("**Dexia BIL**") of their joint subsidiary **Société Monégasque de Banque Privée** (SMBP) in Monaco to BNP Paribas Private Bank (Switzerland) S.A. Most recently, MilleniumAssociates advised **Barclays Bank plc** on its intended acquisition of the Wealth Business of **ING Securities Bank (France)**.

For further information call:

Ray Soudah, Founder
MilleniumAssociates AG
Tel: (+41) 41 720 47 47
Website: www.MilleniumAssociates.com

Issued by:

Dr. Sabina R. Korfmann-Bodenmann
KCCC Korfmann Corporate Communications Consulting AG
Tel: (+41) 43 244 87 30
E-mail: s.korfmann@kccc.ch

Victoria Stephens/Paul Vann
Binns & Co PR Ltd.
Tel: (+44) 20 7786 9600
E-mail: victoria.stephens@binnspr.co.uk/paul.vann@binnspr.co.uk