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Freeman & Co., LLC

Press Release

FREEMAN & CO., LLC APPOINTS JAMES G. HATCHLEY AS HEAD OF ITS NEW LONDON OFFICE TO SPEARHEAD GROWTH IN EUROPE

New York, NY - June 26, 2006

Freeman & Co. LLC, a leading independent advisor to the financial services industry, announced today that it has established Freeman & Co. International LLP¹ and appointed James G. Hatchley as Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer Europe.

Freeman & Co. has for many years served its global clients from its New York Head Office and its satellite office in Paris. Establishing an office in London is the next step in the growth of the firm and is consistent with the increasing needs that Freeman & Co. is seeing within its client base for seamless transatlantic advice, strategic consulting and M&A execution.

Freeman & Co. has extensive transaction experience and deep domain knowledge in a range of sectors within the financial services universe including alternative and traditional asset managers, broker/dealers, trading and execution firms, specialty finance companies, investment banks, retail and regional banks, insurers and financial services processors. A high proportion of Freeman & Co.'s business is transatlantic or multi-jurisdictional in nature.

James Hatchley has been appointed as Managing Director & COO Europe and will be based at Freeman & Co.'s London office. James has over 14 years investment banking and consulting experience and has advised a wide range of global financial services companies on M&A transactions and strategic development. James has considerable experience in cross border transactions involving European and US based multi-national companies and was previously at Greenhill & Co. covering the European Financial Services Sector. Before Greenhill, James was a Director of J. Henry Schroder & Co. and was one of the founder members of Schrodgers' successful European Financial Institutions Group. James is a qualified Chartered Accountant.

James will work closely with all of Freeman & Co.'s existing Partners in New York and with Akram Ben, Director, based in Freeman & Co.'s satellite office in Paris.

James L. Freeman, CEO and founder of Freeman & Co., said, "We are delighted that James Hatchley has joined us to spearhead our business in London and our further expansion in Europe. James has deep industry knowledge and a long pedigree of providing independent advice to companies in the financial services sector. He is a great addition to the firm."

¹ An application is being prepared and will be submitted to the Financial Services Authority in the United Kingdom to seek authorization for Freeman & Co. International LLP to conduct regulated activities.

About Freeman & Co., LLC

Founded in 1991, Freeman & Co. LLC is a boutique M&A advisory and strategic management consulting firm focused exclusively on the financial services industry. The company's M&A and advisory services include mergers and acquisitions advice, capital raising, fairness opinions, restructuring advice and private company valuations. Strategic management consulting assignments are customized to client needs and have covered a wide array of projects. Additionally, Freeman & Co. developed a proprietary algorithm and methodology for benchmarking the competitive position of capital markets businesses, which has become the industry standard used by major investment banks.

Freeman & Co.'s team consists of more than 25 professionals with over 120 years aggregate industry experience. For more info, see www.freeman-co.com.

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