



For Immediate Release

Global M&A Announces New UK Partner

London, Dusseldorf 2 October, 2007 - Global M&A, the world's leading partnership of independent middle market investment banking firms, is pleased to welcome Noble & Company ("Noble") which formally joins the partnership as its UK partner in October 2007.

Global M&A's focus is on domestic and cross-border mid-market transactions, valued at between €10 million and €250 million. The rapidly expanding cross-border M&A market continues to accelerate at a record pace due to the benefits of geographic diversification, the availability of good acquisition candidates and easier access to financing in certain countries. The evolution of the private equity industry also contributes to the need for global M&A advisory services.

In the first half of 2007, the value of mid market M&A transactions increased by 15.4% to \$440 billion (€312.2 billion). Within this, Europe accounts for almost 40% of deals. (Source: Thomson Financial). In addition, companies are increasingly seeking to raise capital overseas. For example, in the first half of 2007, £1.2 billion (€1.72 billion) was raised on AIM by 39 non UK-based companies.

Research also shows that the proportion of cross-border mid-market M&A activity, that is deals worth over £50 million (€71.69 million) in value with a UK leg, is increasing. This time last year the proportion of cross-border deals to UK deals was roughly half. Today, cross-border M&A activity actually accounts for 75% of mid-market deal flow in the UK (Source: Mergermarket).

"We carefully evaluated potential partners in the UK over the past six months and determined that Noble, with their access to the AIM market and strong M&A experience was the best fit for our partnership," said Michael Gibbons, chairman of Global M&A and senior managing director and principal of Global M&A United States, Brown Gibbons Lang & Company.

"Global M&A prides itself in inviting only best-of-breed firms into our partnership, and in Noble we now have the premier independent UK investment bank as our partner. Our clients will benefit from Noble's superb M&A capabilities and notable access to the UK capital markets."

Noble is the corporate finance advisory and broking arm of Noble Group, an independent investment banking group founded in 1980, with over 100 employees based in London and Edinburgh. Noble provides integrated corporate finance and broking services to fast growth mid-market companies. Specialist corporate finance teams offer strategic advice on transactions, fundraising and M&A across five core sectors - technology, financial institutions, consumer, business & support services, and natural resources & energy.

“International capability is essential to today’s M&A market. We are delighted to become the UK partner to the excellent members of Global M&A around the world, enabling first-class client service on an international basis. The growth in London’s capital markets for international businesses offers exciting opportunities to clients of all 36 members of Global M&A,” said John Llewellyn-Lloyd, Chief Executive of Noble.

Global M&A partners have completed over 1,000 transactions with an aggregate deal value of over €25 billion since 2000.

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About Global M&A

Global M&A is an exclusive partnership of many of the world’s most successful independent M&A advisory firms focused on the middle-market. Within Global M&A, 36 partner firms work together on an exclusive basis to deliver seamless advice to clients’ local and cross-border deals in as many countries across Europe, the Nordic Region, North and South America and the Mid and Far East. www.globalma.com

About Noble

Noble is the corporate finance advisory and broking arm of Noble Group. Noble is a certified Nominated Adviser and Broker on AIM, a Sponsor and Broker on the Main Market of the London Stock Exchange, a Sponsor on OFEX, and has significant experience of advising on the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers.

Noble Group is an independent investment banking group providing a unique range of professional services to fast growth small/mid cap companies and investment vehicles. The company has over 100 employees based in Edinburgh and London. www.noblegrp.com