

Ipreo LLC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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i-Deal and Hemscott merge to form Ipreo; announce first acquisition as combined entity

- **Ipreo to be premiere provider of capital markets and investor relations solutions**
- **Announce acquisition of Marketpipe, further expanding its new issuance capabilities**

New York and London – December 18, 2006 – i-Deal LLC, a leading innovator in capital markets workflow solutions, and Hemscott Group Ltd, a premier international provider of financial data and investor relations services, today announced that they have merged. The combined company has been named Ipreo LLC. Ipreo further announced today its acquisition of Marketpipe, a UK-based provider of financial services technology focusing on new-issuance fixed income solutions.

Ipreo will have approximately 600 employees globally, based in the United States, United Kingdom, and India. Combined revenues will be approximately \$100 million for 2006. As a result of the transaction, Ipreo is majority owned by private-equity firm Veronis Suhler Stevenson LLC, with significant minority stakes held by Citibank and Merrill Lynch, the original sponsoring members of i-Deal. Under the new organization, Scott Ganeles will be CEO, Kevin Marcus will be President and COO, and Ros Wilton will be Chairman.

i-Deal is a recognized leader in the capital raising and new issue arena, providing software and analytics to top investment banks globally across the equity, fixed income and municipal markets. Hemscott is an international supplier of business and financial information and online corporate investor relations solutions. Hemscott owns and operates an extensive proprietary database of company and contact information which it delivers to financial institutions and web portals throughout the US and UK. Hemscott also owns bigdough, the premiere investor contact database and CRM system relied upon by both the investment banking and corporate investor relations communities globally.

Ipreo combines the market-leading solutions and high customer service standards already established by i-Deal and Hemscott in their respective market segments. Ipreo has been formed to leverage the combined offerings and expertise to provide enhanced connectivity between different players in the financial markets – connecting people, information and processes in ways that will integrate tasks, streamline workflows, and link parties together more effectively.

“Both firms are recognized leaders in their respective segments of the market, and both are driven by an innovative and entrepreneurial culture,” said Scott Ganeles, CEO of Ipreo.

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“The result is a company that is based on a solid foundation of experience and expertise, but with the scale and resources to provide enhanced services to a global market.”

Ros Wilton, Chairman of the combined group, also commented: “We are very pleased to have completed this merger, which creates a leading global financial information and services group. Today’s merger further strengthens our group’s product offering and demonstrates the expansion we are committed to.”

The first initiative of the newly formed organization is the acquisition of privately held Marketpipe, a UK-based provider of fixed income new-issue software solutions. The company designs, licenses and operates some of the most technologically advanced applications in the financial markets.

With the acquisition of Marketpipe, Ipreo becomes the only truly global provider of new-issuance solutions in the fixed income space. This transaction will also significantly strengthen and further develop the new issue network that Marketpipe has been spearheading around the standardization and communication of fixed-income new issuance.

“We’re very pleased to be able to hit the ground running as a combined organization,” said Ganeles. “We are looking forward to contributing to the community that Marketpipe has created and facilitating the realization of that vision.”

“This is a perfect fit for Marketpipe,” said Jonathan Gittos, Chairman of Marketpipe. “Not only will clients now benefit from the full combined suite of products, but our collective resources and expertise will allow us to bring new products and enhancements to market faster with wider coverage across the globe.”

“We are delighted to be bringing together all of these organizations and to support them in their continued growth,” said Scott Troeller, Partner of Veronis Suhler Stevenson. “Ipreo possesses exceptional complementary assets that when tied together provide workflow and information solutions that tackle many of the capital markets issues of the day, such as compliance, transparency and efficiency.”

The i-Deal / Hemscott merger, combined with the acquisition of Marketpipe, make Ipreo a true driving force in the global marketplace, bringing unique solutions to both the investment banking and corporate communities.

About Ipreo LLC

Ipreo is a leading international innovator of Capital Markets and Investor Relations solutions. Based on a legacy of established industry front-runners, Ipreo combines deep industry expertise and dynamic innovation to bring market-leading data, end-to-end workflow solutions, and superior customer service to all participants in the global capital markets. Our solutions support the sell side, buy side and corporations with high-end

technology and analytical services that allow our clients to achieve results with greater efficiency and insight. Ipreo has offices in New York, London, Maryland, and Delhi. For more information, please go to www.Ipreo.net.

About Marketpipe Ltd.

Marketpipe has built, licensed and operates some of the most innovative and technologically advanced applications in the financial markets. Marketpipe has been instrumental in catalyzing change in the fixed income financial markets. The company operates a full new issue network and also licenses its products directly to banks. Marketpipe was formed in 2000 and currently has 19 investment banking clients and approximately 30 employees in its London office. For more information, please go to www.marketpipe.com.

About Veronis Suhler Stevenson LLC

Veronis Suhler Stevenson is a private equity and mezzanine capital fund management company dedicated to investing in the media, communications, information and education industries in North America and Europe. To date, the VSS funds have invested in 47 platform companies, which have in turn completed over 220 add-on acquisitions resulting in a portfolio with realized and unrealized enterprise values totaling approximately \$10 billion. For more information, please go to www.vss.com.

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