

# Press Release

Paris, 5 April 2006

# Fimat further strengthens its execution capabilities with the acquisition of Cube Financial

Finat, one of the leading brokerage firms on international markets, is pleased to announce the acquisition\* of Cube Financial, a brokerage firm with offices in Chicago and London. Cube provides execution services to financial intermediaries and end-user clients, specializing in exchange traded derivatives and securities. The company employs in excess of 100 brokerage specialists.

The acquisition of Cube fits perfectly into Fimat's strategy by complementing its already powerful execution and clearing capabilities, thus reinforcing its position as a leading futures and options brokerage.

"The combination of the two entities will allow Fimat to significantly increase the volume of its transactions in futures and options, and will further confirm Fimat's place as a top broker in the London market. Fimat and Cube will pool their market intelligence to better serve their clients, offering them a one stop shop access to a wider range of innovative products and services" says Nicolas Breteau, CEO of Fimat UK and European Zone Managing Director.

"Both Fimat and Cube Financial are fast-growing entities with lean and efficient operations. We are scaling up with this acquisition, achieving at the same time strong commercial synergies and benefits in terms of processes and systems" underlines Patrice Blanc, CEO Fimat Group.

"Cube has an entrepreneurial spirit, which fits very well into the Fimat way of doing business. The combination of our strengths in worldwide execution and clearing will create a brokerage champion, a destination of choice for clients and brokers alike" adds John Ruskin, Managing Director of Cube Financial.

\* Since the acquisition involves regulated entities, it is subject to the appropriate regulatory authorizations

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SOCIETE GENERALE share capital of EUR 542 860 226 25 552 120 222 RCS PARIS

### Société Générale

Société Générale is one of the largest financial services groups in the euro-zone. The Group employs more than 103,000 people worldwide in three key businesses:

- Retail Banking & Financial Services: Société Générale serves more than 19 million individual customers worldwide.
- Global Investment Management & Services: Société Générale is one of the largest banks in the euro-zone in terms of assets under custody (EUR 2,000 billion\*) and under management (EUR 386 billion, December 2005).
- Corporate & Investment Banking: Société Générale ranks among the leading banks worldwide in euro capital markets, derivatives and structured finance.

Société Générale is included in the four major socially-responsible investment indexes.

# www.socgen.com

\*pro forma figures including UniCredit's Securities Services

# Société Générale Securities Services

Société Générale Securities Services offers a full range of securities services in:

- Execution, clearing, delivery and settlement
- Securities back-office outsourcing services
- Custody, trustee, fund and portfolio administration
- Employee Share Plan Management

Société Générale Securities Services currently ranks 3rd among securities custodians in Europe, and 10th worldwide with EUR 2,000 billion\* in assets held. Through its subsidiary Euro-VL, Société Générale Securities Services provides valuations for 4,184 funds\* representing assets of EUR 380 billion\*. Fimat, another Société Générale Securities Services subsidiary, acts as broker for 5.5% of the clearing of international listed derivatives transactions on the major markets for which Fimat is a member. Société Générale Securities Services ranks among the European leaders in stock option management, serving more than 480,000 beneficiaries.

Société Générale Securities Services employs more than 4,500 people\* and has a presence on more than 30 financial marketplaces across Europe, the Americas and Asia Pacific.

#### Fimat

Finat is part of Société Générale Securities Services, which offers a full range of securities services ranging from execution, clearing, delivery and settlement, to custody, trustee, fund and portfolio administration, as well as employee Share Plan Management. Finat Group consists of more than 1,500 staff in 26 market places and is a member of 45 derivatives exchanges and 17 stock exchanges worldwide. Finat offers financial institutions and large industry players the global range of clearing and execution services on listed and OTC derivatives and securities products, such as fixed income, tangible commodities, forex and equities. It also offers a multitude of tailored and value-added services such as margin financing, lending and borrowing services, centralised processing and reporting of customers' portfolios.

Fimat refers to all companies or divisions of companies owned directly or indirectly by Société Générale that include the "Fimat" name. Only Fimat USA, LLC. is a member of the NASD and SIPC. Fimat International Banque S.A. (UK Branch) is a member of the LSE and does not deal with, or for Private Customers (as defined by the Financial Services Authority). Fimat International Banque SA (Frankfurt Branch) only conducts business with market professionals and institutional customers. Only Fimat Canada Inc. is a member of the CIPF. Not all services are available from all Fimat organizations. Consult your local office for details. <a href="https://www.Fimat.com">www.Fimat.com</a>.

## **Cube Financial**

Cube Financial "Cube" provides execution services to institutional and end user clients. The firm specializes in exchange traded derivatives and over the counter derivatives. In addition Cube also provides services to clients in Cash Equities, Government and corporate bonds and corporate foreign exchange.

The Cube group was formed in 1997, initially as a floor operation on the LIFFE floor. The company has since evolved to embrace screen trading in a number of different products.

Cube has offices in London and Chicago and employs in excess of 100 execution professionals. It is a member of every major derivative and cash exchange in Europe and has a floor presence on the Chicago Board of Trade and Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Cube is therefore able to offer its clients a broad range of execution services.