



PRESS RELEASE
Regulated Information

RHJ INTERNATIONAL ACQUIRES KLEINWORT BENSON FROM COMMERZBANK

London, 15 October 2009 – RHJ International ('RHJI') the diversified investment holding company announces that it has reached an agreement with Commerzbank AG to buy Kleinwort Benson with its private banking, wealth management and fiduciary businesses.

RHJI will acquire Kleinwort Benson Private Bank Limited and Kleinwort Benson Channel Islands Holdings Limited (together 'Kleinwort Benson') from Commerzbank AG for £225 million in cash. As at 31 December 2008 the businesses being acquired had total assets under management of £5.4 billion and fiduciary assets under administration of £15.7 billion.

RHJI has for some time been looking to develop a European financial services business and was attracted to Kleinwort Benson's exceptionally strong private banking franchise and excellent growth prospects. These businesses in the UK and Channel Islands will form the basis of a strengthened financial services platform with a view to broader usage of the Kleinwort Benson brand.

Commenting on the deal, Leonhard Fischer, Chief Executive of RHJI, said:

"Kleinwort Benson is an internationally respected brand in banking and its private banking operation provides a first class service to its clients. This is an important strategic investment for RHJI in a very attractive market sector. Furthermore RHJI plans to adopt Kleinwort Benson as an overarching brand for its financial services businesses going forward."

Robert Taylor, Chief Executive of Kleinwort Benson, said:

"We are very pleased to have been acquired by a group whose leadership team has longstanding links with Kleinwort Benson. We look forward to working with our new owners to continue to grow our private banking business about which we are passionate."

The transaction, which is expected to be completed in Q1 2010, is subject to the relevant regulatory clearances.

Deutsche Bank is financial advisor to RHJI in this transaction.

– Ends –

For more information contact:

Bell Pottinger Corporate & Financial
Stephen Benzikie
Olly Scott

+44 20 7861 3879 / sbenzikie@bell-pottinger.co.uk
+44 20 7861 3891 / oscott@bell-pottinger.co.uk

RHJ International
Arnaud Denis

+32 2 643 60 13 / adenis@rhji.com

Kleinwort Benson
Carly Connelly
Rachel Butler
Rachel Sauvage

+44 20 3207 7053 / carly.connelly@kbpb.co.uk
+44 20 3207 7239 / rachel.butler@kbpb.co.uk
+44 14 8175 2581 / rachel.sauvage@kbcj.co.uk

Commerzbank
Simone Fuchs

+49 69 136 44910 / simone.fuchs@commerzbank.com

Notes to Editors

About RHJ International

RHJ International (Euronext: RHJI) is a diversified holding company focused on creating long-term value for its shareholders by acquiring and operating businesses. RHJI is a limited liability company incorporated under the laws of Belgium, having its registered office at Avenue Louise 326, 1050 Brussels, Belgium. For further information visit: www.rhji.com.

About Kleinwort Benson

Kleinwort Benson is one of the most historic names in UK banking with roots dating back to the 1850s. Kleinwort Benson is the brand name of Kleinwort Benson Private Bank Limited (established in 1962 from the merger of Kleinwort Sons & Co and Robert Benson & Co) and its subsidiaries. It is registered in England at 30 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7PG. Registration number 2056420. It is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority and is a member of the London Stock Exchange. It operates throughout the UK from a principal office in London and branches in Birmingham, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Leeds, Manchester, and Newbury. Kleinwort Benson Channel Islands Limited is licensed by the Jersey Financial Services Commission as a deposit-taking business and as a branch by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission. The Kleinwort Benson Group in the Channel Islands is also licensed by the Jersey and Guernsey Financial Services Commissions in the provision of fiduciary and investment services.

About Commerzbank

Commerzbank is the second largest credit institution in Germany, and one of Europe's major banks. With the merging of Dresdner Bank into Commerzbank in May 2009, Commerzbank is now additionally one of the leading banks for private and corporate customers in Germany. The new Commerzbank has a total of around 14.5 million private and corporate customers worldwide.

Commerzbank sees its role as being that of an expert provider of services to private and business customers and to SMEs. Commerzbank will have around 1,200 branches, giving it the densest branch network of any German bank. Customers will benefit from an even more extensive and attractive range of products and advisory services. With its clear commitment to the German market, Commerzbank is now an even stronger partner for the long term, combining the expertise of two institutions under one roof.

This press release contains certain forward-looking statements concerning the Company's operations, economic performance and financial condition. Such forward-looking statements are based on management's current expectations, estimates and projections and are subject to a number of assumptions and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the Company to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. The Company has no obligation to publicly update or release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this press release.