

14 January 2005

## FD tops 2004 M&A league tables

For the fifth consecutive year Financial Dynamics (FD) has topped the pan-European M&A league tables, as published by mergermarket, by volume of transactions. In 2004, FD advised on 148 deals worth over Euro 101 billion, which also ranked it second in Europe by value.

In addition, FD ranked second in mergermarket's North American league tables by volume of deals – with 2004 only being the second year of FD trading under the Financial Dynamics brand in the USA.

FD was also ranked in the top three by both volume and value in all of the individual European country tables – UK, Germany, France and Italy – confirming the strength of its pan-European business model.

Commenting, Charles Watson, group chief executive of Financial Dynamics, said:

“The fact that FD continues to top the mergermarket league tables is a testament both to the strength of our international financial communications credentials and the depth and talent of our consultancy teams on both sides of the Atlantic. The outstanding European performance continues to be matched by our North American operations where FD is now number two in the league tables by volume – an excellent result given that we only started to achieve critical mass in this market following our MBO in July 2003.”

Transactions on which FD advised include (FD client name in bold):

- **Aventis'** defence against €50bn hostile bid by Sanofi (France/Germany/USA)
- \$12.6bn acquisition of **Rouse Corporation** by General Growth(USA)
- **Harmony Gold Mining Company's** \$8.1bn hostile bid of Gold Fields Limited (South Africa)
- **Genworth's** \$9.5bn IPO (USA)
- **Air Liquide's** €2.8bn acquisition of Messer Griesheim (France/Germany/USA)
- **Cinven's** €2,075m acquisition of VNU World Directories
- **Terra Firma's** €1.035bn acquisition of Autobahn Tank & Rast Holdings AG (Germany)
- £2.1bn acquisition of **Unique Pub Company** by Enterprise Inns' (UK)
- **Taylor & Francis Group's** £1.1bn merger with Informa (UK)
- \$1.2bn acquisition of **Therasense** by Abbot Laboratires US)
- **GKN's** £1.0bn sale of its 50% stake in AgustaWestland (UK/Italy)

ENDS

For further information please contact:

Charlie Palmer  
Tel: +44 20 7831 3113

**Notes to Editors:**

**Financial Dynamics** is one of the most highly regarded brands in the communications industry. FD employs over 285 professional staff and advises more than 400 clients worldwide through its offices in London, New York, San Francisco, Frankfurt, Paris, Dublin, Boston, Athens, Bahrain, Stockholm and Washington. FD's services include financial public relations, investor relations, crisis & issues management and corporate, business-to-business & business-to-consumer communications. Financial Dynamics is also a market leader in M&A advisory work.

In July 2003 Financial Dynamics was subject to a management buyout supported by Advent International.