

PRESS RELEASE

**Financial Dynamics Acquires Dittus Communications,
Expands Global Public Affairs Practice**

NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON DC – December 5, 2005 – Financial Dynamics (FD) today announced the acquisition of Washington D.C.-based Dittus Communications, one of the nation's pre-eminent public affairs firms, marking a significant expansion of FD's global public affairs offer.

Established in 1993, Dittus serves national and international clients and is recognized as a leader in issues management and advocacy work, crisis communications, coalition building, grassroots organizing, and government-sector marketing communications. The firm has a deep understanding of the inner workings of the U.S. Congress, state legislatures and federal government agencies, plus expertise in key sectors including technology and telecommunications, energy and the environment, transportation, food and agriculture and the nonprofit sector. Led by company founder Gloria Dittus, the firm's client roster includes The Home Depot, Qwest, Tyco, Dell, SAP, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), the Business Software Alliance, the American Council for Food and Nutrition and the Alliance to Save Energy. The firm is staffed by more than 50 senior professionals with backgrounds that include Capitol Hill, the Administration, state and local governments, trade associations, corporations, professional newsrooms, and other public relations agencies.

"The increasing complexity of conducting business in a heightened regulatory environment has driven a corresponding demand for increasingly sophisticated public affairs-oriented services on a global scale," said Declan Kelly, CEO, Financial Dynamics-US. "With the acquisition of this influential specialist group, FD can now advise clients on global public affairs issues with the expanded scope of services they demand. Dittus has earned an unsurpassed reputation for successful legislative and regulatory communications counseling and is best known for delivering victories for clients on many significant issues including nutrition, homeland security and trade relations with developing nations. Under Gloria's leadership, the firm has grown into one of Washington's largest public affairs firms and we welcome them to the FD network."

Commenting on the agreement, Gloria Dittus said, "Public affairs communications in this day and age require far more sophisticated solutions that address government and business audiences, as well as the many circles who influence them. Joining the FD network gives us the opportunity to offer such capabilities to a broader set of clients, and also to bring global reach and additional resources to those we've traditionally served. I'm looking forward to achieving new successes as part of FD International."

Through the acquisition, FD's expanded public affairs offer can now deliver further insights into public policy and legislative issues shaping State, national and international policy through an extensive array of services including issues management and advocacy work, coalition building, grassroots organizing and legislative strategy. Together with FD's thriving Washington D.C. office and its international network highlighted by LLM, the UK's leading public affairs firm, FD is uniquely positioned to meet the needs of a global clientele seeking the most sophisticated public affairs counsel. Stan Collender, who opened FD's office in Washington almost two years ago, will continue to run that office.

Dittus will retain its brand and operate as Dittus Communications, a Financial Dynamics company. Gloria Dittus, founder and CEO, will continue to head up its operations and will join the FD-US board of directors. Ms. Dittus is highly respected throughout the consulting industry and with almost three decades of Washington experience, brings a sophisticated understanding of government affairs and legislative and regulatory issues. *PR News* named her "Public Affairs Executive of the Year" in 2004. Most recently, she was selected by the *Washington Business Journal* as one of the region's "Women Who Mean Business," an honor reserved for the region's most influential and powerful women executives

About FD

FD is a leading business communications and consulting firm with a 20 year history advising clients' senior managements in corporate and financial public relations, investor relations, transaction communications public affairs and crisis communications. Co-headquartered in London and New York, FD provides seamless cross-border support through a network of offices across Europe, North America, Asia and the Middle East. FD recently formed a Business Consulting practice through the acquisition of management consulting firm Westhill Partners to provide clients with a broader range of solutions to address the critical business issues facing their organizations. The firm is structured around specialist sector teams operating on an international basis and is management owned in partnership with private equity firm Advent International. For more information, visit www.fd.com.

About Dittus Communications

Dittus Communications is a full service public relations firm serving national and international clients. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., Dittus is best known for delivering legislative and regulatory victories for on behalf of its clients. With an array of services, including media relations, issue advocacy, grassroots and corporate branding, combined with the firm's continual growth, Dittus was honored as the 2003 Public Affairs Agency of the Year. For more information, visit www.dittus.com.

For further information contact:

Evan Goetz/Scot Hoffman: +1 212 850 5600

###