



**FORTIS
BANK**

Solid partners, flexible solutions

Press release

Amsterdam, 7 June 2005

FORTIS CLEARING CHICAGO APPOINTS MICHELLE SARGENT AS SALES MANAGER

Fortis Bank is pleased to announce that Michelle Sargent has been appointed as Sales Manager for Fortis Clearing Chicago, as per May 23, 2005.

Michelle Sargent has worked for the Chicago Mercantile Exchange for the past 15 years. Most recently, she worked as Associate Director of Global Electronic Trading, being responsible for Customer Relationship Management.

“Michelle is well known in the industry and has a wealth of experience”, says Russell Levens, Managing Director of Fortis Clearing U.S.A. “Her successful track record in this industry and focus on the needs of our clients will contribute to our expansion plans”.

Jan Bart de Boer, Global Director of Commerce, adds “I am very happy she joins our global sales force. Her professional experience and expertise will boost our sales activity”.

Fortis Bank is one of the largest third party clearers in Europe, Asia/Pacific and the US and offers clearing services for the derivatives, equities, bonds, commodities and OTC markets. In over 20 markets Fortis Bank has a General Clearing Membership (GCM) enabling this service to be offered directly. In other markets it uses local services providers.

Fortis Bank administers both financial and non-financial, exchange traded and OTC derivative products and offers settlement services for underlying products. Fortis Bank also performs services related to underlying assets, finances derivatives and securities positions, and manages the accompanying risks.

Fortis Bank

Rokin 55

1012 KK Amsterdam

www.fortis.com

For further information please contact:

Fred Dellelijn, tel. + 31 20 527 1543

E-mail: fred.dellelijn@nl.fortisbank.com

www.informationbanking.fortisbank.com

Information Banking aims to be a major bank for asset financing. Using the principle of “asset gathering and asset utilisation”, Information Banking offers in addition to custody and clearing, securities financing, lending and yield enhancement strategies like structured products and arbitrage. Information Banking targets three client groups: professional traders, institutional investors and banks and alternative funds.

Fortis is an integrated financial services provider active in the fields of banking and insurance. With a market capitalization of EUR 26,5 billion (07/04/2005) and around 51,000 employees, Fortis ranks in the top 20 of European financial institutions. In its home market, the Benelux countries, Fortis occupies a leading position which it aims to develop and bolster. Fortis is drawing on the expertise it has acquired in its home market to realize its European ambitions via growth platforms. Fortis also operates successfully worldwide in selected activities. In specific countries in Europe and Asia it effectively exploits its know-how and experience in bancassurance. Fortis is listed on the exchanges of Amsterdam, Brussels and Luxembourg and has a sponsored ADR programme in the United States. More information is available on www.fortis.com