



Press release

February 5, 2007

**Aforge Finance advised TowerBrook and the management
for the acquisition of Jimmy Choo**

TowerBrook Capital Partners, (U.K.) LLP (“TowerBrook”), the international private equity firm, President and Founder Tamara Mellon and CEO Robert Bensoussan, in partnership with the rest of the management team of Jimmy Choo, today announce the acquisition of Jimmy Choo from Lion Capital for an enterprise value of £185m. TowerBrook will be the lead investor and majority owner of the company. Gala Capital, the Spanish private equity firm, will also invest in the transaction.

Jimmy Choo was founded in 1996 in London as a women’s luxury shoe business, opening its first store in Motcomb Street. Since 2001, Jimmy Choo’s management team, including Robert Bensoussan, Tamara Mellon and Sandra Choi, has substantially grown the business and created one of the most successful and iconic brands in the luxury goods sector and the fashion world today. Jimmy Choo now has over 60 branded stores worldwide, including recently opened stores in Chicago, Hong Kong, Miami, Singapore and Tokyo. The range of products has also been successfully extended from shoes to bags and small leather goods. Jimmy Choo sales have grown since 2001 at a compound rate of over 45% to more than £65m today.

The acquisition of Jimmy Choo enables TowerBrook to acquire a unique brand and partner with a very ambitious and successful management team whom they can support in their growth strategy. Robert Bensoussan, who has been managing with success several luxury companies in the past, will have the responsibilities to generate further acquisitions in the luxury industry.

Aforge Finance (Damien Bachelot, co-président Corporate Finance, Bruno Stern, partner) **advised the acquirers, Towerbrook and the management, in this transaction.**

***About Aforge Finance:** Aforge Finance is a consulting firm providing both Corporate Finance services and Private Banking and Family Office services. With around 100 transactions completed over the past three years, it is one of the leading independent M&A advisors in France and a leader in the mid market segment. Its positioning and its international alliance with Macquarie in the US and Sal Oppenheim in Europe provide comprehensive coverage of the U.S. and European markets and a significant local presence to optimize relations with family-owned companies, industrial groups, private equity players and capital providers.*

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