

Contacts:

Matthew McGowan Giuliani Capital Advisors LLC New York (1) 212 258 1460 www.giulianicapitaladvisors.com	Jean Philippe Debas Aforge Finance Paris (33) 1 53 81 71 20 www.aforge.com	Andreas Nick Sal Oppenheim jr. & Cie Frankfurt (49) 69 71 34 5530 www.oppenheim.com
Dr. Wang Wei China M&A Management Holdings Beijing (86) 10 65171126 cma.mergers-china.com	William Ren NewStone Capital Beijing (86) 10 58699368 www.newstoneinternational.com	

**GIULIANI CAPITAL ADVISORS (USA), AForge FINANCE (FRANCE)
and SAL OPPENHEIM (GERMANY) FORM STRATEGIC ALLIANCE;
ASIAN EXPANSION UNDERWAY**

**ALLIANCE WILL FOCUS ON CROSS-BORDER M&A
AND CAPITAL MARKETS TRANSACTIONS**

New York, Paris and Frankfurt, July 12, 2006. Giuliani Capital Advisors LLC (“GCA”), Aforge Finance S.A. and Sal. Oppenheim jr. & Cie. have formed a Global Strategic Alliance concentrating on cross-border mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and capital markets transactions. All three firms are leaders in executing mid- to large-sized transactions in their respective home markets (US, France, and the German-speaking countries), and their professionals have a well-established history of completing complex cross-border deals. The three firms will work closely to leverage their combined industry expertise, deal execution capability and client relationships to further penetrate the robust transatlantic M&A market. With approximately 200 dedicated M&A professionals, GCA, Aforge and Sal. Oppenheim completed a total of 78 domestic and cross-border transactions in 2005.

OFFICES ON THREE CONTINENTS

With offices located throughout the US, Europe and Asia, this Global Strategic Alliance offers unparalleled access to large and middle size companies, private equity investors, and financing sources on a global basis. “There is strong need in the global marketplace for cross-border investment banking services tailored to middle market transactions, delivered with the highest level of quality, integrity and creativity”, said former New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Giuliani Partners LLC, GCA’s parent company. Steven Oesterle, CEO of Giuliani Capital Advisors, added, “We have carefully selected as our alliance partners leading independent investment banking firms that share our client first philosophy; we will continue to selectively build out the Alliance in Asia, and will work closely with our Alliance members to deliver highly integrated services and global reach to our cross-border clients.”

“Being able to operate effectively on a global basis is a critical success factor in our market”, said Dieter Pfundt, Managing Partner of Sal. Oppenheim. Damien Bachelot, CEO of Aforge, said “A growing number of our transactions involve global players; we expect this collaboration to increase our ability to originate and execute significant cross-border transactions.”

GLOBAL STRATEGIC ALLIANCE ADDS CHINESE INVESTMENT BANKING FIRMS

In addition, the Global Strategic Alliance has recently added two high quality investment banking firms in China, China M&A Management Holdings and New Stone Capital. Founded in 1997 and with over 40 professionals, China M&A Management has been at the forefront of the developing China M&A marketplace, with a long history of completing M&A and restructuring transactions. NewStone Capital is a newly-formed M&A boutique investment bank whose professionals have extensive experience in buying and selling Chinese businesses. Together, these firms provide comprehensive coverage to global companies seeking to access the Chinese marketplace. The Global Strategic Alliance also has strong working relationships with investment banking firms in Japan and India.

The Global Strategic Alliance currently has M&A professionals in the following locations: New York, Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Paris, Lyon, Geneva, Frankfurt, Cologne, Zurich, Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou and Shenyang. Future locations are expected to include Tokyo and Mumbai.

#