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American Stock Transfer & Trust Company Announces Addition of Corporate Governance Advisory and Proxy Solicitation Services with the Acquisition of Phoenix Advisory Partners, LLC

NEW YORK, August 2, 2010 -- American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC ("AST") announced today the acquisition of Phoenix Advisory Partners, LLC ("Phoenix") as a wholly-owned subsidiary within The Link Group network of companies. Led by industry stalwart and president, John Siemann, Phoenix is comprised of an experienced team dedicated to corporate governance advisory and proxy solicitation services.

"Our focus is to be the premier provider of proxy solicitation and corporate governance advisory services in the industry – period," said Siemann. "This proxy team has developed a new metric for proxy solicitation, combining year-round consulting and advisory services with highly focused, hands-on solicitation."

In addition to offering this suite of services to all of AST's current transfer agent clients in the United States, Phoenix will also provide the same unparalleled services to the Canadian market, through the recently signed agreement for Pacific Equity Partners ("PEP") to purchase CIBC Mellon Trust Company's Issuer Services business.

"To have John and this team of professionals join us now equates to perfect timing as the industry begins to deal with dramatic changes in the proxy and governance worlds," said Mark C. Healy, president and chief executive officer of AST. "This directly complements our focus on delivery of total equity services solutions to our clients."

"Today, more than ever, corporate issuers need a proxy solicitor who can be a year-round advisor, providing timely and insightful information, and an agent with the necessary resources to ensure the successful implementation of solicitation strategies," said Siemann. "I believe that AST is uniquely positioned to be the dominant player in this industry. Once I met with AST's senior managers, I was sold on coming on board and being a part of this comprehensive approach to the industry."

About Phoenix Advisory Partners, LLC

Phoenix Advisory Partners is a leading provider of proxy solicitation and corporate governance advisory services. The team at Phoenix has over 30 years of experience in the business, including tenure in senior roles at Georgeson/Computershare and the Laurel Hill Advisory Group and serviced more than 100 corporate clients, including Fortune 100 companies.

About AST

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company provides comprehensive stock transfer and employee plan services to over 2,800 public companies and maintains approximately 6,000 issues. AST's clients are located throughout the United States and in over 22 foreign countries, ranging in size from initial public offerings to Fortune 100 companies. Founded in 1971 and headquartered in New York, AST provides clients with customized solutions along with access to the best systems, services, processes and products available today — around the globe.



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About PEP

Pacific Equity Partners is the most active private equity fund in Australia and New Zealand, providing strategic management experience and capital resources to grow companies in a range of business situations. PEP Fund IV is the largest private equity fund in Australia and the firm has over \$5 billion of equity funds under management. Since its establishment in 1998, PEP has made 18 portfolio company acquisitions and more than 20 add-on acquisitions at the company level.

Detailed information about PEP can be found at www.pep.com.au.

About Link Market Services

Link Market Services Limited is a leading premium provider of registry services and technology to financial market participants in Australia. PEP's most substantial portfolio company, Link manages approximately ten million holder records, maintains the registers of over 1,000 securities and provides services to over 90 of the S&P/ASX Top 100. Link services its clients seamlessly across Australia, New Zealand, India and South Africa from its offices in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Auckland, Mumbai, Port Moresby and Johannesburg.

More information about Link is available at www.linkmarketservices.com.au

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