

Willis appoints Damien Woods Executive Chairman in Ireland

Willis Group Holdings (NYSE:WSH) today announces the appointment of Damien Woods as Executive Chairman of its Irish subsidiary.

Mr Woods joins from Marsh Ireland Ltd, where he was Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive. Prior to that he was the cofounder and Director of BRW Insurances, which was acquired by Marsh in 1997.

Welcoming him to Willis, Ken Mahony, Chief Executive of Willis' Irish business said: "We are delighted to have attracted someone of Damien's stature and track record to Willis. We have ambitious plans to grow our activities in Ireland and Damien will work closely with me to accelerate the expansion of our operations in the country".

Damien Woods said: "This is an exciting time to be joining Willis under the dynamic leadership of Group Chairman and CEO, Joe Plumeri. Joe has Willis well on the way to being a great company and I am enthused by his vision. I look forward to working with Ken and the rest of the team to increase the Irish business, based upon our wide range of products and superb client service."

Willis has been operating in Ireland for over 75 years where it employs 210 people on an all Ireland basis. The company offers Irish clients a broad range of services such as strategic risk consulting, due diligence exercises and practical on site risk control services including health and safety and property loss control consulting.

Willis Group Holdings is a leading global insurance broker, developing and delivering professional insurance, reinsurance, risk management, financial and human resource consulting and actuarial services to corporations, public entities and institutions around the world. With over 300 offices in more than 100 countries, its global team of 13,000 associates serves over 50,000 clients in 160 countries. Willis has particular expertise in serving the needs of clients in such major industries as construction, aerospace, marine and energy. In June 2001 the Group returned to public ownership and is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (symbol: WSH). Additional information on Willis may be found on its web site www.willis.com