

News Release

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Mergers, Acquisitions & Divestitures **Willis Webcast / Conference Call on January 6** **to address M&A Best Practices for a World of Risk**

New York, NY, January 3, 2005 – M&A due diligence – identifying, quantifying and treating known and potential liabilities associated with merger, acquisition and divestiture activities – has never been more important than it is today. Legacy liabilities, going-forward financial and strategic risks arising out of products and operations, environmental exposures, counterparty risk, expanded regulatory and statutory corporate governance obligations, and heightened shareholder scrutiny and expectations – all of these make employment of M&A best practices imperative.

As a component of our Client Advocate model and a reflection of our commitment to maintain open communications with our clients, **Andrew Guerin** and **Mark Rusas**, Willis M&A National Practice Leaders, will host a webcast/conference call on Thursday, January 6, 2005 at 11 AM Eastern Time to discuss prime objectives of the M&A due diligence mission, strategies for enhancing value and risk transfer mechanisms that are often the key to getting the deal done.

Interested parties may access the webcast and accompanying PowerPoint presentation via www.willis.com/Extras/webcasts.aspx. Those who may wish to ask questions during the Q&A session that follows may listen to the webcast by calling (800) 857-4779 (domestic) and +1 (773) 799-3433 (international) with a passcode of Willis. Media are invited to attend and participate. Participants are asked to log in or call in 10 minutes prior to the webcast in order to register for the event.

A replay of the webcast will be available through March 7, 2005 at 5:00 PM Eastern Time, by accessing the web site or by calling (800) 944-3317 (domestic) or +1 (402) 220-3690 (international) with no passcode.

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Editor's Note: The bulletin will be available on Willis.com via www.willis.com/Extras/Publications.aspx after the webcast.