

News Release

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WILLIS GROUP ACQUIRES ESSENCE INSURANCE BROKER CO., LTD IN TAIWAN

Continues Asia Expansion

New York, NY, January 10, 2005 – Willis Group Holdings Limited (NYSE: WSH), the global insurance broker, announces today the purchase of the business portfolio of Taiwan based insurance broker Essence Insurance Broker Co., Ltd (Essence). Terms of the transaction are not disclosed.

Willis has assumed responsibility and control of the ongoing business with immediate effect. The integration of the business is scheduled to be completed by January 31, 2005 at which time all Essence staff will have transferred to Willis offices in Taiwan.

Essence Insurance Broker Co., Ltd is a Taiwan licensed general insurance broker serving middle market corporate clients, particularly in the high technology sectors.

Welcoming the Essence team to Willis **Joe Plumeri**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Willis said: "We continue our Asia expansion where we see significant opportunities for growth. In particular, Greater China is an area of intense economic activity and we have expanded our operations in this area with acquisitions in Peoples Republic of China, Hong Kong and now Taiwan all within the last six months."

"We will continue to seek growth opportunities in the region, including through acquisitions," Plumeri continued. "Our existing Asian clients tell us that they like the unique Willis Client Advocate model which coupled with our One Flag approach ensures that we are able to marshal our global resources to solve local problems."

Willis Group Holdings Limited 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 over 100 countries, its global team of 14,500 Associates serves clients in some 180 countries. Additional information on Willis may be found on its web site www.willis.com.

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