

News Release

Contact:

Investors: Kerry K. Calaiaro
+1 212 837-0880
Email: kerry.calaiaro@willis.com

Media: Dan Prince
+1 212 837-0806
Email: daniel.prince@willis.com

Willis Group Announces CFO of North America Former GE Consumer Finance VP Joins Willis

New York, NY, February 17, 2006 – Willis Group Holdings Limited (NYSE: WSH), the global insurance broker, today announces the appointment of Derek A. Smyth as Chief Financial Officer of the Company's North American operations. Smyth will report to both Mario Vitale, CEO of Willis North America and Patrick Regan, Chief Financial Officer of Willis Group Holdings, Ltd. He is based in New York City.

Smyth, a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ACA), joins Willis from General Electric Company, where over the course of more than 13 years, he served as Vice President for Securitization, as well as Strategic Pricing, and Financial Planning & Analysis. Smyth also served as Chief Financial Officer for GE Capital IT Solutions in Munich, Germany. Prior to his tenure with GE, Smyth served Sovereign Finance PLC as Financial Controller, and was an Auditor with Bowater Industries and KPMG in the United Kingdom.

With 23 years of global finance experience gained largely in the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States, Smyth brings an array of worldwide financial expertise to Willis.

Commenting on today's announcement, **Mario Vitale** said, "Derek Smyth is a talented finance executive with an array of professional experiences and a depth of knowledge of corporate finance that is sure to add value to our North American operations, as we continue to expand and grow our broking capabilities."

"Derek has a reputation as a leader in the financial industry. His experience and skill set are a perfect fit with Willis' North American concerns," said **Patrick Regan**. "I have no doubt that he will provide expert financial leadership throughout this important region."

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 15,800 Associates serves clients in 180 countries. Willis is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol WSH. Additional information on Willis may be found on its web site: www.willis.com.

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