

News Release

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New Senior Appointment Strengthens Willis' M&A Practice

London, UK, April 4, 2006 – Willis Group Holdings (NYSE:WSH), the global insurance broker, is pleased to announce that **Doug Smith** has been appointed as Non Executive Deputy Chairman of its rapidly expanding Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) practice.

Smith has held the position of Chairman for a number of divisions within a major global insurance broker, latterly as Chairman of Marsh's Private Equity and M&A practice, and is widely regarded as one of the leading UK insurance advisors on transactional insurance issues to the private equity industry.

Working closely with **Alistair Lester, Co-Head of the international Willis M&A practice**, Smith will focus on broadening the strength and breadth of relationships with the private equity community. He will also provide strategic growth and development of the M&A practice which is focused on the provision of risk and insurance due diligence services as well as specialist M&A related insurance solutions to the private equity community and corporations.

Commenting on the appointment Lester said, "We are delighted to have been able to retain the services of Doug Smith. He is recognised as being one of the most experienced professionals in our specialist field of advising private equity firms and corporates on the insurance issues associated with transactions, as well as identifying opportunities to structure bespoke insurance solutions to resolve specific transaction liability situations."

Willis' M&A practice members comprise experienced professionals from a wide range of backgrounds including the legal profession, investment banking, environmental science, accountancy, corporate risk as well as the insurance sector.

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 more than 100 countries, its global team of 15,800 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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