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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lincoln Partners and Peters Associates Join to Form Lincoln International

Firms join forces to serve a growing base of international clients

CHICAGO AND FRANKFURT, Jan. 10, 2006 - Today, Lincoln Partners and Peters Associates, two leading mid-market investment banks based in the U.S. and Germany respectively, and a group of experienced corporate finance professionals in France joined to form Lincoln International. With integrated resources, Lincoln International focuses on providing merger and acquisition services and private capital raising to companies involved in mid-market transactions. Lincoln International's integrated, industry-focused teams offer clients the breadth of contacts and effective cross-border coordination that previously was not available on mid-market transactions.

With offices in Chicago, Frankfurt, New York and Paris, Lincoln International employs approximately 100 M&A professionals, equally represented in the U.S. and Europe. Lincoln International is led by its two co-chairmen, Jim Lawson and Hans Peter Peters, two well-established investment banking professionals with more than 50 years combined global financial experience.

"The vision of Lincoln International is to create the leading global mid-market M&A advisory firm by combining a strong domestic presence in each of the key world economies with outstanding staff and an open and integrated working environment," said Hans Peter Peters, co-chairman of Lincoln International. "The formation of Lincoln International is just the beginning; we intend to continue to expand our presence on a proactive basis."

"Globalization is no longer just the domain of the largest companies or major transactions," said Jim Lawson, co-chairman of Lincoln International. "Today, businesses and transactions in the mid-market are competing and being marketed globally. These businesses need a firm like Lincoln International that not only understands the global market, but has the broad industry knowledge, resources and contacts to consistently produce outstanding results in mid-market transactions."

Prior to becoming Lincoln International, Lincoln Partners and Peters Associates enjoyed a successful partnership, capitalizing on each firm's complementary culture, service and industry expertise. As one integrated organization, Lincoln International will enhance and build upon that success with the addition of their experienced colleagues from France.

About Lincoln International

Lincoln International specializes in merger and acquisition services and private capital raising for leading organizations involved in mid-market transactions. With offices in Chicago, Frankfurt, New York and Paris, and partner firms in Asia, Lincoln International has strong local knowledge of and contacts in the key global economies. The organization provides clients with senior-level attention, in-depth industry expertise and integrated resources. By being focused and independent, Lincoln International serves its clients without conflicts of interest. More information about Lincoln International can be obtained at www.lincolninternational.com.

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