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THE MERCANTI GROUP NAMES TWO NEW INVESTMENT BANKERS TO EXPAND ITS LOS ANGELES CORPORATE FINANCE TEAM

Brian Wood and Eric Groman to Add Expertise in Health, Nutrition, Gaming and Consumer Products Industries

LOS ANGELES, CA, May 21, 2007 – The Mercanti Group, an investment banking firm, has increased staffing at its Los Angeles office with the appointment of two new investment bankers, it was announced today by James D’Aquila, founder and Managing Director.

The new additions are Brian Wood, who was named a Director, and Eric Groman, appointed a Principal. Both previously were with Seidler Capital, a division of The Seidler Companies Incorporated, a Los Angeles-based, NYSE member financial services firm, where Mr. Wood was a Senior Vice President and Mr. Groman was a Vice President in the Investment Banking Group. Mr. Wood and Mr. Groman had spent the last five years at Seidler advising middle market companies in a wide range of corporate finance transactions, with a particular focus on the health and nutrition, gaming and consumer products sectors. Prior clients include NutriSystem, Reliv International, NDS Nutrition, Summit Gaming, Acres Gaming, PDS Gaming and MBIA MuniServices.

“Brian and Eric both bring with them significant expertise in the industries Mercanti covers and we are fortunate to have them join our Los Angeles team,” said Mr. D’Aquila. “Mercanti enjoys sustained presence nationally with California and the Western U.S. bringing significant opportunities to our firm. The addition of Brian and Eric to our already talented staff will enable Mercanti to continue to provide the exceptional service and strategic counsel that is the firm’s hallmark.”

Prior to joining Seidler Capital, Mr. Wood was associated with Enron Corporation’s Global Finance division providing corporate development strategy and transaction structuring for the Company’s broadband initiatives. He has a BBA from the University of Notre Dame, an MBA from Georgetown University, and studied at the Said School of Business in Oxford, England.

Mr. Groman previously was with the Mergers & Acquisition Group at CIBC World Markets, and started his career as a corporate finance analyst at Prudential Volpe Technology Group, working mostly on M&A transactions. He graduated cum laude from Harvard University with a BA in economics.

The Mercanti Group is headquartered in Minneapolis, MN, and has additional offices in Los Angeles and New York City.

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About The Mercanti Group

The Mercanti Group is a results-oriented boutique financial advisory firm that embraces a fierce commitment to client service and provides creative Merger & Acquisition, Capital Raising and Strategic Advisory solutions to small and middle market companies, private equity firms and individual business owners in the consumer, health care, technology, business services and manufacturing industries. Mercanti offers companies the expertise and capabilities of a large investment bank with the focus, attention and energy of a small entrepreneurial firm. Mercanti has offices in Minneapolis, Los Angeles and New York. Mercanti also is strategically affiliated with Marquette Financial Companies, a diversified financial services company which is a part of the Pohlads family holdings. If you would like more information on The Mercanti Group, please visit the Web at www.mercantigroup.com, or contact a Mercanti professional at 612.333.0130 (Minneapolis); 310.444.0130 (Los Angeles); or 212.883.0130 (New York).

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