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The Mercanti Group Joins With Beijing-Based Mahon China in Strategic Cross-Border Alliance

MINNEAPOLIS, MN, January 16, 2007 – The Mercanti Group, a boutique investment bank headquartered in Minneapolis and with offices also in Los Angeles, New York and Seattle, today announced a strategic cross-border alliance with Mahon China Investment Management Limited (“Mahon China”), of Beijing. The move is designed to leverage the decades of experience and strong business relationships of both firms to support what they anticipate will be a new wave of M&A and financing activity between middle market companies in the U.S. and China.

Mahon China, with knowledge of the mainland Chinese economy and business environment, provides advisory services to financial and corporate investors interested in entering the Chinese market. The Company’s services include M&A advice and joint venture structuring, asset restructuring and investment valuation and exits. Mahon China also is a pioneer in private equity fund management in China, with experience gained from managing four private equity funds that included 20 investments. Mahon China, wholly owned by its management and staff, has been active in China since 1986, making it one of the Mainland’s oldest foreign-owned investment firms.

The Mercanti Group is a results-oriented boutique financial investment firm specializing in providing M&A, capital raising and strategic advisory services to small and middle market U.S. companies, private equity firms and businesses in the consumer, health care, technology, business services and manufacturing industries.

“China supplies a myriad of goods and services and is undoubtedly the world’s largest potential market for exports and products, making it important for every U.S. business,” said Jim D’Aquila, Managing Director of Mercanti. “We are confident that Mahon China’s outstanding reputation and thorough understanding of the Chinese investment market, combined with Mercanti’s extensive relationships and broad advisory experience within the U.S., will make for a productive alliance.”

“We believe Mahon China’s alliance with the Mercanti Group creates a truly unique and powerful team of experienced professionals who can assist companies on both sides of the Pacific execute their international strategies,” said David Mahon, CEO of Mahon China.

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,

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Los Angeles, New York and Seattle. Mercanti also is strategically affiliated with Marquette Financial Companies, a diversified financial services company which is a part of the Pohlad 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); 212.883.0130 (New York) or 425.943.7280 (Seattle).

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