

## Press Release

Tokyo, February 16, 2007

### **Fimat signs an agreement with Himawari with a view to acquiring Himawari CX's commodities business**

**Fimat**, one of the world's leading global brokerage organizations, and **Himawari CX, Inc.** a Japanese commodity futures commission merchant and a subsidiary of Himawari Holdings Inc., are pleased to announce today that they have agreed to enter into exclusive negotiations to finalise an asset purchase agreement for the acquisition by Fimat of the key assets of the Himawari CX, Inc. wholesale execution and clearing business. The acquisition will be subject to approval from the relevant regulatory authorities.

Fimat and Himawari CX have been working closely together for several years, and have developed a strong business relationship. Upon signing a final asset purchase agreement, Fimat would integrate these acquired assets into its global offering. Fimat plans to create a unique commodities brokerage platform in Japan initially involving around 30 people, as well as providing the combined client base with a direct access to the major commodities markets in the world.

*"The wholesale division of Himawari CX, Inc. is known as one of the leading Japanese commodity brokerage units, contributing to the internationalization of Japanese markets and also giving access to overseas commodities markets. We will now have the unique opportunity to combine the expertise of our teams with the worldwide market network and the solid financial base of Fimat, and offer our customers the market accesses and the services they need",* said Yasuo Mogi, Senior Executive Vice President & COO, Himawari CX, Inc.

*"We are very excited to grow our commodities coverage in Japan, one of the major commodity futures markets, by finally welcoming the highly-experienced team from Himawari CX to our group. Combined with our expertise in execution and clearing of listed derivatives, this acquisition would represent a significant step in Fimat's strategy to expand our offering in Asia-Pacific",* said Julien Le Noble, Managing Director, Société Générale Securities North Pacific - Fimat Tokyo Division.

*"Today, we are set to increase the depth and breadth of our coverage in commodities, a key asset class for Fimat in Asia-Pacific, where we see significant opportunities for growth. The acquisition of these assets from Himawari CX, would fit perfectly into Fimat's strategy to expand its presence, image and offer as a global multi asset player",* commented Wessel Van der Scheer, CEO of Fimat in Asia-Pacific.

Himawari CX is a member of several Japanese Commodities exchanges such as Tokyo Commodity Exchange (TOCOM), Tokyo Grain Exchange (TGE) and Central Japan Commodity Exchange (C-COM).

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**Société Générale**

**Société Générale** is one of the largest financial services groups in the euro-zone. The Group employs 120,000 people worldwide in three key businesses:

- Retail Banking & Financial Services: Société Générale serves more than 22.5 million individual customers worldwide.
- Global Investment Management & Services: Société Générale is one of the largest banks in the euro-zone in terms of assets under custody (EUR 2 262 billion, December 2006) and under management (EUR 422 billion, December 2006).
- Corporate & Investment Banking: Société Générale ranks among the leading banks worldwide in euro capital markets, derivatives and structured finance.

Société Générale is included in the five major socially-responsible investment indexes.

**Société Générale in Japan**

Société Générale Group has been operating in Japan for close to 35 years. With more than 650 staff, the Group is currently active in four key areas: Corporate and Investment Banking, Asset Management, Private Banking and Brokerage. For brokerage of securities and derivatives, Société Générale Securities' Fimat Division is one of the major players in Japan.

[www.socgen.com](http://www.socgen.com)

**Fimat** is part of Société Générale Group and has more than 1,900 staff in 26 market places and is a member of 44 derivatives exchanges and 19 stock exchanges worldwide. In 2006, Fimat achieved a global market share of 6,7% on major derivatives exchanges on which Fimat and its subsidiaries are a member.

Fimat refers to all companies or divisions of companies owned directly or indirectly by Société Générale that include the "Fimat" and/or "Cube" names. Only Fimat USA, LLC. is a member of the NASD (National Association of Securities Dealers) and SIPC (Securities Investors Protection Corporation). Fimat International Banque S.A. (UK Branch) is a member of the LSE and does not deal with, or for Private Customers (as defined by the Financial Services Authority). Fimat International Banque SA (Frankfurt Branch) only conducts business with market professionals and institutional customers. Only Fimat Canada Inc. is a member of the CIPF. Not all services are available from all Fimat organizations. Consult your local office for details. [www.fimat.com](http://www.fimat.com)

**Himawari Holdings Inc.**

Himawari Group offers a wide range of comprehensive financial services to private and corporate investors through its group network, anchored by "Himawari Holdings Inc.", an exclusive holding company and supported by "Himawari Shoken Inc.", a securities and foreign exchange margin trading company, and "Himawari CX Inc.", a commodity futures trading company. This approach helps the Group provide highly developed and specialized services in each field. Himawari Group not only provides investment opportunities, but also holds internet-aided seminars designed to help its clients and investors acquire new skills; offers user-friendly, state-of-the-art trading systems; and issues reports featuring compilations of key points and real-time information, thereby winning a large client base through strong supporting services that are not found anywhere in the industry. Himawari Group engages in securities trading; foreign exchange margin trading; commodity futures trading; commodity funds; life insurance.

**Himawari CX, Inc.** is a 100%-owned subsidiary of Himawari Holdings Inc., which is listed on the JASDAQ Securities Exchange. It is also a commodity futures trader approved by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Himawari CX has more than 40 years of experience in commodity futures trading and currently offers comprehensive financial investment services, including investment trust commodity funds and sales of gold bullion. The Company adapts to its clients' wide-ranging needs depending on the level of investment risk. Leveraging Himawari CX's highly specialized services and expertise, its clientele spans financial institutions and futures dealers from Europe, the United States and Asia, and spot dealers from Japan and overseas.