



## 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2002:

### **Successful merger between FIMATEX and BOURSORAMA The Group has held up well despite particularly unstable conditions**

#### **The Group held up well over the 1st half-year 2002**

##### *In particularly unstable stock-market conditions...*

The new Group's activity held commendably firm. Consolidated operating income in the 2nd quarter of 2002 for FIMATEX and FINANCE NET<sup>1</sup> came to 12.3 million euros, coming out at 24.2 million euros for the first 6 six months of 2002.

##### *...Fimatex has maintained its leadership position in France*

In the second quarter of 2002, FIMATEX returned an operating profit of 10.8 million euros, compared with 11.9 million euros the previous quarter, limiting the fall to 9.2%. The number of orders booked in the 2nd quarter performed similarly, retreating 9.1% (530,717 transactions were carried out in the 2nd quarter, compared with 583,847 in the 1st quarter). The number of accounts remained stable at 104,320, with 938 accounts opened in France and 487 in Germany.

FIMATEX has maintained its position as France's leading on-line broker with a 20% market share by number of orders<sup>2</sup>.

##### *... and BOURSORAMA has confirmed its leadership positions for the media activity*

During the 2nd quarter of 2002, FINANCE NET earned a turnover of 1.5 million euros.

Despite the woefully lacklustre market in on-line advertising, the BOURSORAMA site consolidated its position as the undisputed leader by airing a large number of commercial advertising campaigns (AGF, IBM, Lastminute.fr, Mercedes, French Railways' travel-package offer Voyages SNCF...) and by confirming the success of the financial communication offer launched in late 2001. Today, more than 80 quoted companies have subscribed to this offer (financial advertising, press releases, content broadcasting), 19 of them being included in the CAC 40 index. From now on, the BOURSORAMA site represents for issuers a particularly well-suited medium for reaching out to individual investors.

---

<sup>1</sup> FINANCE NET, the company that publishes the BOURSORAMA site, was wholly acquired by FIMATEX on 28th June 2002, and is consolidated in the group financial statements as from 1st April 2002.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Brokers Online Association

## **Successful merger between FIMATEX and BOURSORAMA**

This merger of France's leading on-line broker with the leading economic and financial portal immediately projects the new Group to the position of France's leader in on-line finance. At 30<sup>th</sup> June 2002, FIMATEX has a total of 71,496 accounts in France, boasting particularly active customers with 19.6 orders per account compared with an average of 12.5 for the French market. In 3 months, BOURSORAMA's membership has increased more than 10% to 940,000 members, compared with 850,000 previously.

### ***The merger is proceeding on schedule***

The first stage in the merger between FIMATEX and BOURSORAMA was accomplished successfully on schedule. The Combined General Meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> June 2002 approved all the resolutions for finalising the acquisition of FINANCE NET by FIMATEX.

### ***Developing a combined FIMATEX and BOURSORAMA offer by end September 2002***

The 2<sup>nd</sup> stage in the merger is already well under way, since the FIMATEX and FINANCE NET teams are currently working together on several lines of development, from the most strategic to the most down-to-earth and operational: validating the new brand, defining the global offer, producing the new websites, communicating around both the new brand and the combined offer, and setting them both up.

From the fourth quarter of 2002, the new group will be offering the private investor a unique and independent offer, from the consultation of financial information to on-line investment. The 1,000,000 customers and members of the new Group will be able to access in a single click the full range of on-line financial services: consultation of prices, access to the latest news, analyses and forums, virtual-portfolio monitoring, placing stock-market orders, access to planned-savings products.

## **Medium-term goals and prospects**

### ***Turning synergies to account by end December 2002***

By the 2002 year-end, the new Group intends to finalise the 3rd stage of the merger, with the full implementation of cost and earnings synergies. Prominent among these will be cost savings from the combining of the IT and marketing functions and from the elimination of duplicated efforts in the information-flow contracts.

### ***Objective: return to profitability by 2003***

The Group is maintaining its forecasts, with results close to break-even in 2002 and financial profitability in 2002.

*FIMATEX is listed on the Nouveau Marché (NextEconomy)*

*(Euroclear: 7522 – Reuters: FMTX.LN – Bloomberg: FIMX NM)*

*You can find the full FIMATEX financial news on the Internet site: <http://investors.fimatex.fr>*

## **Contacts:**

---

### **FIMATEX**

Richard Avramovic  
Communication Manager  
Tel.: 00 33 1 56 33 55 12  
[investor@fimatex.fr](mailto:investor@fimatex.fr)

### **Publicis Consultants. Ecocom**

Stéphanie TABOUIS  
Press Relations  
Tel: 00 33 1 44 43 66 20  
[stephanie.tabouis@consultants.publicis.fr](mailto:stephanie.tabouis@consultants.publicis.fr)