



CORPORATE &
INVESTMENT BANKING

Press Release

London, 14 May, 2003

SG acts as Mandated Lead Arranger, Underwriter and Facility Agent, for the acquisition of the NFO Worldwide Group of Companies (“NFO”) by Taylor Nelson Sofres Plc (“TNS”)

SG, the corporate and investment banking arm of the Société Générale Group, today announced that it is acting as Mandated Lead Arranger (MLA), Joint Underwriter and Facility Agent of the debt facilities associated with the acquisition of NFO by TNS. SG has been appointed MLA on this transaction alongside Barclays Capital, The Royal Bank of Scotland Plc and Lloyds TSB Plc.

TNS is a world leader in market information and is acquiring NFO from Interpublic Group (IPG) for a total consideration of USD 425 million. NFO has a significant presence in the market information sector in North America, Europe, Asia Pacific and the Middle East. The acquisition of NFO brings TNS one of the leading US access panels and extensive capabilities in online data collection. It further strengthens TNS global presence, particularly in the North American market which is the world’s largest market for market information. It also brings TNS key new accounts and adds depth to its existing sector expertise.

Of the USD 425 million consideration, USD 400 million will be paid in cash on completion, and USD 25 million will be satisfied by the issue of new TNS shares to IPG on completion. SG is underwriting a proportion of the debt facilities, GBP 122.5 million, to include the refinancing of existing indebtedness at TNS.

“The Media sector is seeing a consolidation of the major players. As the market continues to demand further globalisation, TNS is well placed to benefit from this as a result of this transaction” said Bruce Pomford, Media & Telecom Director at SG.

“We are very pleased that, throughout its ongoing development, we have been selected to provide TNS with tailored financing solutions dedicated to accompany the development of the company” said Geoffroy Dallemagne, Managing Director, Acquisition Finance at SG.

This is the fourth transaction undertaken by SG for TNS, which illustrates the continuing commitment SG has to the Media & Telecom industry and further consolidates SG’s relationship with TNS.

Note to editors: