



CORPORATE &
INVESTMENT BANKING

Press Release

Paris, 21 November 2005

Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking awarded 'Best Equity Derivatives House 2005' by *Structured Products*

SG Corporate & Investment Banking (SG CIB) the global leader in Equity Derivatives, has been named 'Best Equity Derivatives House of the Year' by *Structured Products magazine* for its achievements in this field in 2005.

Structured Products particularly highlighted SG CIB's equity derivatives global coverage (more than 800 front office professionals) and pace of growth (more than 100 staff recruited for new positions in 2005, a similar number to previous years).

According to *Structured Products*, "SG CIB's commitment to internal growth through active recruitment has resulted in one of the fastest-growing equity derivatives teams in the market. In addition to the many milestones it has reached across Asia and the US in the last 12 months, SG CIB has been successful in quickly reacting to changing market conditions in Europe."

SG CIB continued to develop innovative products that became references in the industry: "... in Japan [SG CIB] structured the first retail hedge fund-linked product for Nikko Cordial Securities..." says *Structured Products*, "in Europe, it was one of the first structurers to come to market with a range of Vega-plus structured products designed to take advantage of last year's low volatility extremes."

In the structured alternative investment area, in 2005 SG CIB acquired Bank of America's Structured Alternative Investment business, which offers hedge funds financing solutions and leverage to investors. This external growth opportunity brought several key experts and a widening of the SG CIB customer base. With this acquisition, SG CIB achieved a leading position in the Structured Alternative Investment business (in Leveraged, Credit Facility and Guaranteed transactions).

SG CIB has a long established reputation for excellence in equity derivatives and for providing innovative solutions to clients, particularly for structured products. The bank has won regular accolades from industry publications in this area since 2001. Over the past 18 months in particular, the bank has received global or regional awards from: *The Banker* (Sept 04), *IFR* (Dec. 04), *Risk* (Jan. 05), *The Banker* (Americas and Europe, Sept 05).

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Société Générale Group

Société Générale is one of the largest financial services groups in the euro-zone. The Group employs 92,000 people worldwide in three key businesses:

- **Retail Banking & Financial Services:** Société Générale serves about 18 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 1,275 billion, June 2005) and under management (EUR 353 billion, June 2005).
- **Corporate & Investment Banking:** SG CIB ranks among the leading banks worldwide in euro capital markets, derivatives and structured finance.

Société Générale is included in the four major socially responsible investment indexes. www.socgen.com

SG Corporate & Investment Banking

SG CIB is the Corporate and Investment Banking arm of the Société Générale Group. Present in over 45 countries across Europe, the Americas and Asia, SG CIB is a reference bank specialising in:

- **Euro capital markets.** A top ten player in debt and equity segments (bonds, securitisations, syndicated loans, equity-linked and equity issues).
- **Derivatives.** Among the world leaders in equity derivatives and in many interest rate, credit, foreign exchange and commodities derivatives.
- **Structured finance.** A worldwide leader in export, project and structured commodity finance.

Combining innovation and quality of execution, SG CIB provides corporates, financial institutions and investors with value-added integrated financial solutions.

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