

August 21, 2008

For Immediate Release

Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd.

Mizuho Securities Co., Ltd.

**Investment in Evercore Partners Inc.  
and the Execution of an Alliance Agreement with Evercore Partners Inc.  
Concerning the Cross-Border M&A Business**

Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd. (“MHCB”) and Evercore Partners Inc. (“Evercore”) agreed, as of today, to an investment by MHCB in Evercore. In addition, MHCB, Mizuho Securities Co., Ltd. (“MHSC”), The Bridgeford Group, Inc. (“Bridgeford”) and Evercore agreed to execute an alliance agreement with respect to their North America/Japan cross-border M&A advisory businesses.

MHCB and MHSC (the “Mizuho Entities”) will make efforts to further strengthen their North America/Japan investment banking business through this alliance with Evercore.

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MHCB agreed with Evercore to purchase senior notes of Evercore in a principal amount of \$120 million and warrants to purchase Evercore Class A common stock (equivalent to 14.7% of Evercore’s voting rights). Furthermore, the Mizuho Entities, Bridgeford and Evercore agreed to execute an alliance agreement with respect to an M&A advisory business targeting cross-border M&A transactions between North America and Japan. Moreover, the Mizuho Entities have the right to designate one director of Evercore. With respect to the alliance with Evercore, the Mizuho Entities agreed to cooperate not only in the M&A advisory business but also in the asset management area.

Evercore is a preeminent M&A investment banking boutique in the United States, having close relationships with the top management of many large American corporations. Evercore ranked first in 2006 and 2007 in the U.S. M&A advisory ranking of investment banking boutiques.

MHSC and Evercore have been parties to an alliance since 2006. In order to collaborate more closely by expanding the alliance with the addition of MHCB, the Mizuho Entities and Evercore have agreed to further strengthen their cross-border M&A advisory services through the following:

- (1) Joint provision of M&A advisory services by the Mizuho Entities and Evercore

The Mizuho Entities and Evercore will provide swift and cooperative services through measures such as the Mizuho Entities’ designation of one director and the mutual secondment of personnel.

(2) Formation of joint industry-specific teams

Utilizing their mutual strengths, the Mizuho Entities and Evercore will form joint industry-specific teams in health care, telecommunications, technology, retail, chemicals, energy, automotive and others. The Mizuho Entities and Evercore will propose and advise on North America/Japan cross-border transactions based on their global industry insight and networks.

Through this strategic alliance, the Mizuho Entities will further strengthen their global investment banking business and provide more sophisticated services to their clients.

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<Overview of Evercore Partners Inc.>

Trade Name	Evercore Partners Inc.
Establishment	1996 (Listed on the New York Stock Exchange in August 2006)
Major Management Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roger Altman (founder, Chairman and CEO, former Deputy Secretary of Treasury (U.S.))</li> <li>• Pedro Aspe (Co-Chairman, former Minister of Finance (Mexico))</li> <li>• Eduardo Mestre (Vice Chairman)</li> <li>• Bernard Taylor (Vice Chairman)</li> </ul>
Main Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisory services in M&amp;A and restructuring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ranked first in 2006 and 2007 in the U.S. M&amp;A advisory ranking of investment banking boutiques</li> <li>○ Involved as an advisor in many large M&amp;A transactions in telecommunications. Recently strengthening personnel in a wide range of areas including health care, retail, technology, chemicals, financial institutions, energy, restructuring</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Private equity investment, venture capital</li> <li>• Asset management</li> </ul> <p>(Overview of Overseas Operations)  August 2006 – Combination with Protego Asesores S. de R.L. (Mexican investment banking boutique)  December 2006 – Acquisition of Braveheart Financial Services Limited (U.K. investment banking boutique)  August 2008 – Alliance with G5 Advisors (Brazilian investment banking boutique)</p>
Total Assets	Approximately \$747 million (as of the end of June 2008)
Net Sales	Approximately \$322 million (as of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007)
Number of Employees	303 (among whom 41 are Senior Managing Directors) (as of the end of June 2008)
League Table	Over the past several years, Evercore has ranked first in the U.S. M&A advisory ranking of investment banking boutiques
Recent Major Transactions (Advisory Business)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition by AT&amp;T of BellSouth, a U.S. telecommunications company</li> <li>• Sale by General Motors of shares of GMAC, an affiliated financial services company</li> <li>• Merger of CVS, a major U.S. retailer, and Caremark, a major U.S. pharmacy</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sale of First Data Corporation, a U.S. electronic payment processing company, to Kohlberg Kravis Roberts &amp; Co.</li> <li>• Financing to Cerberus to purchase Chrysler, a U.S. automobile giant</li> <li>• Sale of International Securities Exchange to Eurex of Deutsche Börse Group</li> <li>• Separation by Time Warner of its cable television unit</li> </ul>
Biography of Mr. Roger Altman	<p>Served as the head of the investment banking division of Lehman Brothers, the vice chairman of the Blackstone Group and other positions</p> <p>1993 ~ 1994 Deputy Secretary of Treasury under the Clinton Administration</p> <p>1996 Established Evercore Partners Inc.</p> <p>2004 Economic advisor to John Kerry, a presidential candidate of the Democratic Party</p>