

February 26, 2010

To whom it may concern:

Mizuho Securities Co., Ltd.

**Announcement regarding the signing of a Cooperation Agreement
between Mizuho Securities Co., Ltd. and G5 Advisors Inc.
covering cross-border M&A advisory services between Japan and Brazil**

Mizuho Securities Co., Ltd. (“Mizuho Securities”)(President: Keisuke Yokoo), along with The Bridgeford Group, a wholly owned subsidiary Mizuho Securities USA Inc. have signed a Cooperation Agreement with G5 Advisors, a boutique investment bank in Brazil to mutually cooperate and promote M&A advisory services between Japan and Brazil.

With the coming of the football World Cup in 2014, and the Olympics in 2016, the remarkable growth of Brazil, a BRICs nation and the largest country in South America, is increasingly becoming a point of focus for Japanese corporations looking to expand their overseas presence. With the needs of our clients in mind and anticipated growth in M&A opportunities in Brazil, we have taken the first steps to create a platform on which to provide a top of class M&A advisory service to our clients by entering into this alliance with G5 Advisors, a boutique investment bank with a wealth of knowledge and experience in Brazil.

G5 Advisors team consists of Mr. Francisco Gros – a former head of the Central Bank of Brazil as its chairman, Mr. Corrado Varoli as its CEO – a former Partner Managing Director and Head of Latin America at Goldman Sachs as well as several other notable individuals who are not only well versed in Brazilian M&A transactions, but also have the insight, depth of knowledge, and an unrivalled network of contacts within the powerhouses of Brazilian industry.

In addition to the signing of the alliance with us, G5 Advisors also entered into an alliance partnership with Evercore Partners (Mizuho Securities’ US alliance partner) in 2008, to promote cross-border M&A advisory services involving Brazilian companies.

With the signing of this Cooperation Agreement, Mizuho Securities continues to strengthen its global platform to provide top-of-class M&A advisory services to address the needs of our clients.