

For immediate release
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Euroclear to acquire Xtrakter from ICMA

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Brussels and London, 20 November 2008 – Euroclear and the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) signed an agreement whereby Euroclear SA/NV will acquire 100% of Xtrakter Ltd, the ICMA subsidiary, for an undisclosed cash amount. Xtrakter owns TRAX, a trade matching and regulatory reporting system that also provides market and reference data.

Pending receipt of regulatory approvals, Xtrakter will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Euroclear SA/NV and a sister company to the Euroclear group's international and national central securities depositories, and EMXCo. The Xtrakter business will complement the OTC trade matching and routing service (ETCMS) offered by Euroclear Bank since 2000.

Completely automating the flow of trade information from trade matching through to settlement is a key client benefit deriving from this transaction. By the end of 2009, trade data already input into the TRAX system will be processed straight through to settlement at Euroclear, thereby eliminating trade matching duplication, reducing settlement fails, costs and risks.

Moreover, the ability to help clients meet their mandatory regulatory reporting of transaction information will be enhanced through this business combination, while strengthening Euroclear/Xtrakter's appeal to the market as a provider of these services. The competent authorities in key markets such as Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom have awarded MiFID-compliant Approved Reporting Mechanism (ARM) status to one or both entities.

Ignace R. Combes, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Euroclear SA/NV, said: "Combining the pre-settlement services and expertise of Xtrakter with the highly efficient transaction-settlement prowess of Euroclear will deliver a competitively priced, full STP service from trade matching to settlement. By looking upstream to trade matching, we are continuing to increase efficiency and lower back-office costs for clients by streamlining processes and eliminating fragmentation."

Kevin Milne, Chief Executive Officer of Xtrakter Ltd, said: "Under our new ownership, we will maintain our strategy of delivering ongoing improved client services across all our business lines. Being part of Euroclear will enable us to drive our matching, reporting and information services products into new areas, thereby helping to support our customers reduce further their operational cost of trading."

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René Karsenti, Executive President of ICMA, said: "When the Association launched TRAX 20 years ago, it was in response to the clear industry need for a market-wide trade matching system. The acquisition of Xtrakter by Euroclear will allow Xtrakter to develop and enhance its market-led services in the context of the many advantages and synergies available from operating as part of a group providing world-class settlement and related services."

Note to Editors

About Xtrakter

Xtrakter, owner of the **TRAX** trade matching system for fixed-income, repo, equity and derivatives transactions, has an established track record in providing innovative, secure and reliable systems for the financial services sector. Today, more than 300 financial institutions worldwide are TRAX clients.

TRAX has been awarded Approved Reporting Mechanism (ARM) status by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) of the United Kingdom, Autorité Des Marchés Financiers (AMF) of France and the Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM) of the Netherlands in conjunction with Article 25 of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID). Currently, TRAX processes over 1.5 million transactions daily on behalf of its reporting subscribers.

Xtrakter also provides a wide range of market (pricing) data for approximately 12,000 international securities and internationally traded government bonds, as well as securities reference data for more than 150,000 government bonds, corporate bonds, medium-term notes and private derivative issues. Xtrakter employs 95 people and is based in London.

More information is available at www.xtrakter.com.

About Euroclear

Euroclear provides domestic and cross-border settlement and related services for bond, equity, derivatives and fund transactions. User owned and user governed, the Euroclear group comprises the international central securities depository Euroclear Bank, based in Brussels, as well as the national central securities depositories (CSDs) Euroclear Belgium, Euroclear France, Euroclear Nederland and Euroclear UK & Ireland. Euroclear also owns EMXCo, the UK's leading provider of investment-fund order routing. Euroclear's acquisition of NCSD and its subsidiaries, APK and VPC, the Finnish and Swedish CSDs, respectively, became effective as of 31 October 2008. Based on year-end 2007 data, the combined group settled the equivalent of more than EUR 575 trillion in securities transactions, representing 198 million domestic and cross-border transactions, and held more than EUR 20 trillion in assets for clients. Euroclear Bank is rated AA+ by Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings.

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The **Euroclear Trade Capture and Matching System (ETCMS)**, launched in 2000, is an automated matching and routing service for over-the-counter transactions with a central counterparty.

Please consult **www.euroclear.com** for more information.

About the International Capital Market Association (ICMA)

ICMA is the self-regulatory organisation and trade association representing a broad range of financial bodies including global investment banks, regional banks, asset managers, exchanges, central banks, law firms and other professional advisers. ICMA's 400 members are located in some 50 countries across the globe.

ICMA's market conventions and standards have been the pillars of the international debt market for 40 years, providing the self-regulatory framework of rules governing market practice which have facilitated the orderly functioning and impressive growth of the market. ICMA actively promotes the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the capital markets by bringing together market participants, including regulatory authorities and governments.

For more information, please see: **www.icmagroup.org**.