



News release

15 October 2009

**Merchant Securities Plc
(the “Company”)**

John East & Partners Limited changes its name to Merchant John East Securities Limited

Further to the announcement made on 30 July 2009, the Company is pleased to announce that its wholly owned subsidiary, John East & Partners Limited (“JEP”), has changed its name to Merchant John East Securities Limited (“Merchant John East Securities”) with immediate effect.

Merchant John East Securities, which provides specialist corporate finance and corporate broking services, to growing small and mid-cap companies, has changed its name as part of a group reorganisation which is expected to be completed on 30 October 2009.

As a result of the change of name JEP’s entry on the register of nominated advisers (as defined in the AIM Rules for Companies) will be amended with immediate effect.

- Ends -

For further information please contact:

Merchant Securities plc Patrick Claridge (Chief Executive)	020 7375 9010
Broadgate Roland Cross/Emma Murphy	020 7726 6111
Arden Partners plc Richard Day	020 7398 1600

Notes to editors

Merchant John East Securities Limited, is authorised to act as a nominated adviser and broker to AIM companies and is also a registered PLUS adviser. The services it is able to offer its corporate clients include, *inter alia*, advising on IPOs, private and public company fundraisings and transactions under the Takeover Code.

Merchant John East Securities Limited has been shortlisted by Growth Company Investor for the ‘AIM Adviser of the Year’ award in six of the last seven years, including 2009 in which it was also shortlisted for the ‘AIM Broker of the Year’ award.