



Merchant Securities Group

AIM: MERC
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MERCHANT SECURITIES GROUP PLC

("Merchant Securities" or "the Group")

Appointment of Head of Life Sciences Equity Research

Merchant Securities, the financial services group, is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Navid Malik as Head of Life Sciences equity research, with effect from 12 September 2011.

Navid has over fifteen years' experience within the Pharmaceutical arena and is highly regarded in the Life Sciences equity research sector. He was awarded two StarMine Analyst Awards in 2011, having been ranked as the number one stock picker in the European Pharmaceuticals sector and number two stock picker in the UK and Ireland Healthcare sector. Navid joins Merchant Securities from the investment banking division of Matrix Group, where he was Partner and Head of Life Sciences research. While at Matrix, Navid was instrumental in building one of the leading healthcare franchises in the UK market. Prior to this, Navid worked as a senior equity analyst for Collins Stewart plc and Williams de Broë, covering the Pharmaceutical, Chemicals, Healthcare and Biotechnology sectors.

Navid holds a doctorate in Drug Delivery within the oncology segment from the University of London's School of Pharmacy.

Navid's appointment further broadens Merchant Securities' equity research coverage and follows the recent appointment of Chris Theis as Head of Sales and Research, with a remit to oversee the development of the Group's equity sales and research coverage.

Patrick Claridge, Chief Executive of Merchant Securities, said,

"I am pleased to welcome Navid to the team. His appointment further extends our equity research offering, adding an important new sector. Navid's Life Sciences research is highly regarded, as his number one ranking in the 2011 StarMine Analyst Awards demonstrates and he brings many years' experience of his sector."

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Notes to Editors:

Merchant Securities Group plc, which is quoted on AIM (TIDM: MERC), offers a broad range of financial services through its Private Client Wealth Management and Investment Banking Divisions.

The Private Client Wealth Management Division provides discretionary and advisory wealth management services and financial planning advice to a broad client base, comprising private individuals, small and medium sized businesses, pension funds and charitable trusts. Through both organic growth and recent acquisitions, the Division has developed significantly and it currently holds c. £487 million of funds under management, approximately £80 million of which is under discretionary management.

The Investment Banking Division provides financial advisory and execution services to both publicly quoted and private companies. Focusing on small and medium sized companies, it offers a full range of services from corporate finance to equity research, sales and trading.