



Merchant Securities Group

AIM: MERC

2 June 2011

**Merchant Securities Group plc
("Merchant Securities" or "the Group")**

Appointment of Head of Institutional Sales & Research

Merchant Securities, the financial services group, is pleased to announce the appointment of Chris Theis as Head of Institutional Sales and Research at Merchant Securities Limited, the Group's institutional stockbroking and corporate advisory business. Chris is expected to join the Group in August 2011.

Chris will oversee the continuing successful development of the Group's equity sales and research capability. Most recently, the Group's equity research coverage was expanded to encompass the Oil & Gas sector in addition to the Alternative Energy, Consumer, Support Services and Technology sectors. Two recent new sales appointments have also strengthened the sales team.

Chris has extensive experience in investment banking, having worked in the capital and equity markets in both New York and London. He joins the Group from Daniel Stewart & Co Limited, where he was a director of corporate broking. Prior to this, Chris was managing director and head of corporate broking at both Canaccord Adams and Insinger De Beaufort. In his earlier career, he led number one rated research teams at Smith New Court and Hoare Govett. Chris holds an MBA from Cass Business School.

Commenting on the appointment, Chief Executive of Merchant Securities, Patrick Claridge, said,

"I am delighted to announce the appointment of Chris Theis as Head of Sales and Research at Merchant Securities. He has extensive experience of the Small and Mid Cap sector and will prove a value addition to the team as we develop further our institutional broking and advisory business."

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