

1 March 2004

Ample acquired by Carruthers Associates Limited

Carruthers Associates Limited ('CAL') has completed the acquisition of Ample, the UK financial services provider, from HHG PLC. Service to Ample's 1.4 million registered users and 400,000 portfolio holders will continue as normal.

CAL has an extensive understanding of the Ample business and the deal will provide Ample customers with an attractive combination of the current proposition and the prospect of service improvements and new products. This includes developing the business-to-business and intermediated offering.

Tomás Carruthers, Chairman and Chief Executive of CAL said: "We are delighted with the acquisition of Ample. The business is well known, has a huge user base and new capabilities to offer its customers. This is a new play on wealth management at an opportune time."

CAL is headed up by Tomás Carruthers, the former CEO of interactive investor international plc, a leading financial website, which was acquired by AMP in 2001. Mr. Carruthers stayed with the business following its acquisition and merger with the Ample business and then became a senior member of AMP's European business development team.

Mr Carruthers has assembled a new management team, who are committed to growing the business which is well positioned to take advantage of the upturn in investment markets. CAL has attracted significant institutional backing and capital to acquire and further develop the long-term future of the Ample business.

Since 2001, AMP invested into the business to create an online transaction processing engine for share trading and personal savings products such as ISAs, pension funds and investment trusts.

Ends

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Notes to Editors:

Carruthers Associates Limited is a private company specialising in financial services. CAL is headed up by the entrepreneur Tomás Carruthers, former CEO of the leading financial services website, interactive investor plc, for five years before the business was sold to AMP in 2001. CAL's head office is in the City of London.