

World's Oldest and Newest Middle Market M&A Organizations Come Together

NEW YORK, NY -- (MARKET WIRE) -- Apr 13, 2005 -- Coming out of their Spring Conference in New York, the 60-member IMAP merger and acquisition advisory network announced an alliance with the nine-member **M&A CEE** network (MACEE). The joint venture broadens IMAP's coverage into Central and Eastern Europe and gives MACEE members access to IMAP, the world's oldest and leading middle market organization.

According to Mark Esbeck, IMAP President, "We were looking to expand our membership into their region and they were looking to expand their region westward. Our IMAP member in Poland, Pawel Jagiello, generated the initial spark, and the relationship blossomed rapidly."

MACEE was formed just 18 months ago and represents leading independent M&A advisory firms in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Turkey and the Ukraine.

"We felt that the IMAP organization embraced a similar philosophy to our MACEE group in its commitment to independently owned advisory firms staffed by experienced dealmakers. Our meeting in New York confirmed this feeling, and we are looking forward to a long cooperative future with IMAP," said Rachel Sargent, the MACEE President.

This agreement has the potential to expand IMAP's membership to over 70 firms located in more than 110 countries around the world. The two organizations will cooperate in marketing and networking efforts for a one-year period, after which the MACEE members will consider regular membership within IMAP.

About the M&A CEE Network

MACEE was founded in October 2003 to meet the growing demand for cross-border investment banking services from middle market companies with ambition to expand in Central and Eastern Europe, and for the medium and large local corporates with equal ambition to raise capital and conquer new markets via acquisitions. Members of MACEE provide their foreign clients with access to acquisition targets, potential purchasers, strategic partners and financial institutions across the CEE region. A key strength of MACEE, however, is its ability to provide services to the new breed of sophisticated entrepreneur in the region who demands top-notch support and wants greater access to capital and business partners. Its members are committed to providing high-quality services, customized solutions and in-depth market knowledge of the middle market. Membership in MACEE is exclusive and by invitation only.

About the International Network of M&A Partners

The International Network of Merger and Acquisition Partners is an exclusive global partnership of 60 leading merger and acquisition advisory firms. Each member firm shares a mutual commitment to delivering the highest caliber professional advisory services for middle market transactions across the globe. IMAP firms provide strategic merger, acquisition, divestiture and related corporate finance services. Sellers of mid-size companies and corporate acquirers alike rely upon IMAP's global partnership for essential local market knowledge and industry expertise delivered with unparalleled global reach.

IMAP members will next meet at their Fall Conference in London from September 22-26 of 2005. MACEE will have its next meeting in Belgrade on April 24th and 25th.

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