

The following text is the English translation of a statutory public announcement according to section 15 Securities Trading Act ("Wertpapierhandelsgesetz") in Germany by HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt, a 78.6 per cent indirectly owned subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.

5 December 2007

HSBC TRINKAUS & BURKHARDT AG ACQUIRES SHARES OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTION SERVICES

HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt AG has agreed to acquire 49 per cent of the shares of International Transaction Services GmbH from T-Systems Enterprise Services GmbH with effect from 1 January 2008. The gross asset value of International Transaction Services GmbH was €61.2 million as of 31 December 2006. The acquisition is subject to the approval of the supervisory board of T-Systems Enterprise Services GmbH.

International Transaction Services GmbH provides securities settlement services and was founded in 2005 as a Joint Venture by T-Systems Enterprise Services GmbH and HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt Gesellschaft für Bankbeteiligungen mbh, a wholly owned subsidiary of HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt AG.

On completion of the acquisition HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt AG will own 100 per cent of the shares in International Transaction Services GmbH on a consolidated basis.

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1. HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt AG

HSBC Trinkaus is one of the leading private banks in Germany and part of the globally-operating HSBC Group. In addition to the head office in Düsseldorf, HSBC Trinkaus is represented in six locations in Germany with over 1,800 employees and has access to the global network of the HSBC Group. With total assets of €21.8 billion and €86.3 billion in funds under management and administration*, the bank has a Fitch IBCA rating of AA-. The core target groups are private clients, corporate clients and institutional clients. *(figures as at 30 September 2007).*

Copies of all the bank's news releases can be found on the homepage www.hsbctrinkaus.de.

2. HSBC Holdings plc

HSBC Holdings plc serves over 125 million customers worldwide through around 10,000 offices in 83 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa. With assets of some US\$2,150 billion at 30 June 2007, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations. HSBC is marketed worldwide as 'the world's local bank'.