

27 September 2008

## **HSBC COMPLETES OPEN OFFER FOR INDIAN BROKERAGE**

Further to the announcement on 17 May 2008, HSBC confirms that it has completed the open offer for public shares of IL&FS Investsmart Limited (Investsmart), a leading Indian retail brokerage. Through the open offer, HSBC has accepted the maximum of 14,422,255 shares, equivalent to 20.65 per cent of Investsmart's capital, in accordance with applicable regulations.

In accordance with local Indian regulations, HSBC was required to make an open offer to public shareholders after it announced its intention to take a majority stake in Investsmart.

HSBC made a cash offer of INR200 per share in an open offer to public shareholders from 11 to 30 July 2008, amounting to INR288.4 crore (approximately US\$63.1 million) for the public shares accepted. As required locally, HSBC will also pay interest of INR2.3 per share to the public shareholders who tendered their shares, which would amount to INR3.31 crore (approximately US\$0.72 million).

HSBC announced in May 2008 its agreement to acquire 43.85 per cent of Investsmart from E\*TRADE Mauritius Limited, an indirectly wholly-owned subsidiary of E\*TRADE Financial Corporation, in addition to a further 29.36 per cent from Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited (IL&FS).

The acquisition remains subject to certain conditions and completion formalities.

HSBC was advised on the acquisition by the investment banking division of HSBC Global Banking and Markets.

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### **Media enquiries**

Gareth Hewett

+852 2822 4929

[garethhewett@hsbc.com.hk](mailto:garethhewett@hsbc.com.hk)

Vinh Tran

+852 2822 4924

[vinhtran@hsbc.com.hk](mailto:vinhtran@hsbc.com.hk)

## **Notes to editors**

### **1 HSBC in India**

The HSBC Group in India is represented by several entities including The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited which offers a full range of banking and financial services to its over 2.8 million customers in India through its 47 branches and 170 ATMs across 26 cities. HSBC is one of India's leading financial services groups, with over 34,000 employees in its banking, investment banking and capital markets, asset management, insurance broking, two global IT development centres and six global resourcing operations in the country. The Bank is the founding and a principal member of the HSBC Group which, with over 9,500 offices in 85 countries and territories and assets of US\$2,547 billion at 30 June 2008, is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.

### **2. IL&FS Investsmart Limited (Investsmart)**

IL&FS Investsmart Group (IIL) is one of India's leading financial services organizations. IIL, through its subsidiaries in India and Singapore, provides a wide range of investment products to its retail and institutional clients including equity broking, investment banking, insurance broking and distribution, mutual funds distribution and related financing services. IIL's 2,000 employees provide a complete range of investment solutions to over 138,000 customers in India through its 88 branches and 190 franchisee outlets from 133 cities and has been recognized as "National Best Performing Financial Advisor - Retail" for two years in a row (06-07 and 07-08) by CNBC TV 18. With a market capitalisation of approximately US\$260 million, Investsmart is listed on the National Stock Exchange and the Bombay Stock Exchange and its Global Depository Shares are listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange.

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