

Paris, 23 October 2006

**AMF warns the public about SouthernCross Mergers and Acquisitions**

The French securities regulator, Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF), is warning the public about the activities of SouthernCross Mergers and Acquisitions. The company is approaching French investors by phone and offering to pay a highly attractive price for securities they have acquired on the over-the-counter market, in return for an advance fee, generally known as a "legend removal fee". There is no assurance that those investors will receive the proceeds from the purported sale of the securities.

The AMF points out that SouthernCross Mergers and Acquisitions has not been authorised to conduct direct marketing activities or operate as an investment services provider in France. Furthermore, the Swedish financial regulator, Finansinspektionen, issued a warning to Swedish investors about the company on 1 September 2006.

Prospective investors are therefore advised to treat any such approach with the utmost caution.