



SECTOR FOCUSED INVESTMENT BANKING FIRM FOUNDED IN BOSTON AREA

SHERBORN, MA – July 2, 2001 – Silverwood Partners, a specialized investment bank, today announced its formation to provide mergers & acquisitions and institutional private capital raising services to clients in selected industry sectors. Silverwood provides a combination of in-depth industry expertise and high quality transaction execution capabilities to companies in the information technology, media and communications technology, financial services technology, consumer products and outsourced services sectors. Silverwood was founded by Jonathan Hodson-Walker, an investment banking industry veteran with experience at large Wall Street firms, including Credit Suisse First Boston and Drexel Burnham Lambert, and regional firms with strong industry-focused research heritages such as First Albany and H.C. Wainwright & Co. Silverwood was co-founded by Nicolas McCoy, CFA, an executive with corporate finance experience at operating companies that include Allmerica Financial, Wheelabrator and in investment banking at First Albany.

Silverwood will provide in-depth strategic analyses of the industries followed by the firm for distribution to corporations and institutional investors that are involved with or that have an interest in those industries. The firm's industry analyses are designed to assist senior corporate executives and institutional investors with strategic decision making over a 1-3 year time horizon. Silverwood will not publish analyses or research on individual companies nor does the firm intend to trade securities, make markets in securities or carry customer accounts.

Mr. Hodson-Walker commented, "Our goal is to provide clients with high quality, industry knowledgeable execution for each transaction from a team of experienced professionals where each person brings a multidimensional perspective of strategist, industry analyst and investment banking expert. We recognize that an M&A or financing transaction can be one of the most important events in a company's development and we provide our clients with the senior level commitment that is required for the successful closure of each deal."

Silverwood will apply to be a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers ("NASD") and intends to become registered with the NASD, the Securities and Exchange Commission and with certain states where the firm and its associated individuals are required to be registered to provide mergers & acquisitions and private placement services.

About Silverwood Partners

Silverwood Partners is a sector focused investment bank that provides M&A and private capital raising advisory services to information, communications, financial services, and digital imaging technology companies, and healthcare, industrial and consumer companies. Silverwood delivers acquisition, divestiture or corporate sale advisory, strategic-financial advisory and institutional financing services to companies in its targeted business sectors. For additional information, visit Silverwood's Website at www.silverwoodpartners.com.

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