



SILVERWOOD PARTNERS

**SILVERWOOD PARTNERS PROVIDES STRATEGIC CONSULTING ADVICE TO
STAPLES, INC. (NASDAQ: SPLS) IN CONNECTION WITH
DEVELOPMENT AND LAUNCH OF STAPLES BUSINESS EXPO®**

SHERBORN, MA – September 16, 2002 – Silverwood Partners announced today that Staples, Inc. has launched Staples Business Expo®, a new concept that is targeted at providing a range of products and services for business customers. Silverwood Partners provided consulting advice to Staples, Inc. in connection with the development and implementation of the Staples Business Expo® marketing strategy.

About Staples, Inc.

Staples, Inc. (Nasdaq: SPLS) is an \$11 billion retailer of office supplies, business services, furniture and technology to consumers and businesses from home-based businesses to Fortune 500 companies in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands and Portugal. Headquartered outside Boston, Staples invented the office superstore concept and today is the largest operator of office superstores in the world. The company has approximately 53,000 associates serving customers through more than 1,400 office superstores, mail order catalogs, e-commerce and a contract business. More information about the company is available at <http://www.staples.com>

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.

Important Information

This release may include forward-looking statements, as defined by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, about the future performance of one or more public companies. There are a number of factors that could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements, such as the competitive market in which any company operates, market acceptance of a public company's existing and new products, a public company's ability to anticipate customer needs and the other factors set forth under the caption "Certain Factors That May Affect Future Results," or similar, in a public company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, any forward-looking statements contained herein represent an estimate only as of the date of such statement and should not be relied upon as representing an estimate as of any subsequent date.

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