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ESP SECURES PRIVATE EQUITY INVESTMENT

NEW YORK, May 17, 2007 - ESP Technologies LLC, the parent company of Electronic Specialist, LLC (ESP), has announced that it has closed investments with affiliates of Credit Suisse, Bear Stearns, and Susquehanna International Group. Details of the transaction were not disclosed.

ESP is an institutional brokerage and technology firm providing centralized broker and exchange connectivity, aggregated trade allocation and settlement services, and a suite of high-powered trading applications to the buy-side community over a global transaction network.

ESP is a leader in streamlining trader workflow, increasing technological choice and lowering overall costs for the buy side. “Over the last several years market fragmentation has dramatically increased trade processing costs for the back office,” said David Sher, one of the founders and a Managing Director of ESP. “Our proprietary ticket aggregation service; Central Counterparty ClearingTM, has been designed to reduce the total cost of trade processing resulting from this trend. This investment by Credit Suisse, Bear Stearns, and Susquehanna validates our model and will enable us to leverage our platform as we continue to develop broker neutral technologies and services.”

“ESP’s ability to combine multiple trading venues in same name trades at different destinations into a consolidated counterparty ticket will result in custodial fee savings for asset managers,” said Manny Santayana, Managing Director and Head of Credit Suisse’s AES Sales Group. “The overall trader productivity and economic benefits are very attractive for ESP’s customers.”

“Bear Stearns consistently works to put our clients first, in all aspects of our business,” said Bob Lyons, Senior Managing Director and COO of Bear Stearns’ Global Equities Division. “Partnering with ESP complements that effort, as their proprietary technology allows our clients to maximize the value of their order flow while lowering their overall transaction costs.”

“Susquehanna Growth Equity is committed to investing in companies that provide differentiated products and services within the financial industry,” said Amir Goldman, Managing Director of Susquehanna Growth Equity. “We believe that ESP has taken a unique approach to addressing the burdens that market fragmentation has placed on trade-processing workflows for both the buy- and sell-side. We are excited to be a part of ESP, and to help leverage these solutions further within the financial community.”

Freeman & Co., Inc. served as the financial advisor to ESP Technologies LLC on this transaction.

About ESP

ESP is an institutional brokerage and technology firm, providing high-speed direct market access and algorithmic routing capabilities in US and global equities, options, and futures. ESP's client base ranges from emerging fund managers to some of the largest mutual funds, life insurance companies, state pensions, asset managers and quantitative hedge funds in the world, with assets ranging from \$10 million to over \$200 billion. For more information, please visit www.fastesp.com

About Credit Suisse

As one of the world's leading banks, Credit Suisse provides its clients with investment banking, private banking and asset management services worldwide. Credit Suisse offers advisory services, comprehensive solutions and innovative products to companies, institutional clients and high-net-worth private clients globally, as well as retail clients in Switzerland. Credit Suisse is active in over 50 countries and employs approximately 45,000 people. Credit Suisse's parent company, Credit Suisse Group, is a leading global financial services company headquartered in Zurich. Credit Suisse Group's registered shares (CSGN) are listed in Switzerland and, in the form of American Depositary Shares (CS), in New York. Further information about Credit Suisse can be found at www.credit-suisse.com

About Bear Stearns

Founded in 1923, The Bear Stearns Companies Inc. (NYSE: BSC) is a leading financial services firm serving governments, corporations, institutions and individuals worldwide. The Company's core business lines include institutional equities, fixed income, investment banking, global clearing services, asset management, and private client services. Headquartered in New York City, the company has approximately 14,500 employees worldwide. For additional information about Bear Stearns, please visit the firm's web site at www.bearstearns.com

About Susquehanna Growth Equity, LLLP

Susquehanna Growth Equity, LLLP (SGE), based in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, is an affiliate of the Susquehanna International Group of companies (SIG), a leading financial institution focused on trading and market making, private equity, venture capital, investment banking, and institutional sales and research. SGE is a private equity group investing in growth capital and late stage venture opportunities in the financial technology, software, business services, and specialty finance sectors. SGE is one of several SIG affiliated entities focused on private equity investments across the globe. This network provides a depth that is leveraged to expose portfolio companies to global markets and opportunities. For more information, please visit www.sgep.com

