



Press Release

Brussels, Hong Kong, Taipei, 19 April 2011

Value Partners Ltd. acquires KBC Asset Management NV's 55.46% stake in KBC Concord (Taiwan)

- ✦ Value Partners Ltd., a Hong Kong based and listed asset management firm, has reached an agreement with KBC Asset Management (KBC AM) on the acquisition of KBC AM's 55.46% stake in KBC Concord Asset Management Co. Ltd. (KBC Concord).
- ✦ The transaction is subject to regulatory approval.
- ✦ KBC Concord was established in December 2007 as a Taiwanese joint venture between KBC AM (Belgium – 55.46%), Concord Securities (Taiwan – 25%) and a group of minority shareholders (Taiwan – 19.54%). The joint venture combined KBC AM's product and fund management know-how with Concord Securities' market knowledge and distribution power.
- ✦ Concord Securities was established in 1990 and is a top, comprehensive financial securities group based in Taiwan. Its business lines are proprietary trading, securities brokerage, underwriting, futures, fixed-income instruments, asset management and derivatives. By 1996, Concord Securities had completed a listing on the OTC market and had 25 branches throughout Taiwan. By the end of September 2010, its total assets had reached over 20 billion TWD.
- ✦ Value Partners Ltd. is a subsidiary of Value Partners Group Ltd., an independent asset management group, with a value-oriented investment management approach and a focus on the Greater China and Asia-Pacific capital markets. Founded in Hong Kong in February 1993, Value Partners is ranked among the top performing fund management firms in the industry. Value Partners Group Ltd. was listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong in November 2007 (Stock code: 806 HK).
- ✦ KBC AM's decision to sell its stake in KBC Concord is a further step in the implementation of the KBC group's updated strategy of focusing on retail customers, small and medium-sized enterprises and mid-caps in its core markets of Belgium and Central and Eastern Europe. KBC AM's strategy is focused on catering predominantly for KBC customers through existing KBC distribution channels, mainly in the group's core markets.
- ✦ The decision to sell KBC AM's stake was taken in consultation with joint venture partner Concord Securities, which was also involved in the selection procedure for the new shareholder. Following completion of the transaction, the new shareholder will increase the capital of KBC Concord to ensure the shareholder structure is brought into line with the local regulations.
- ✦ Given the size and nature of the activities involved, the sale will have no material impact on the KBC group's earnings and capital.

Danny De Raymaeker, Chairman of the Board of Directors of KBC Asset Management NV: *'We welcome today's agreement with Value Partners. The transaction fits in perfectly with our renewed strategy. We are convinced that the new shareholder and Concord Securities will be able to successfully continue developing the Taiwanese asset management activities, securing the future of its staff and ensuring good service is provided to its customers.'*

Welcoming the announcement, **Mr David Cheng, Vice-Chairman of Concord Securities**, said: *'Concord Securities Group is pleased to complete this deal, which will result in a three-way-win situation for the Concord Securities Group, the KBC group and Value Partners. Concord Securities Group will contribute its unique extensive network and distribution capability in Taiwan to the joint venture with Value Partners, an emerging and highly successful Hong-Kong-based asset management firm, in order to develop its asset management business in Taiwan and Asia. We are convinced that this joint venture will be an unprecedented success for the asset management business thanks to each shareholder's strong exclusive advantages.'*

Commenting on the deal, **Mr Jimmy S L Chan, Co-Chief Executive Officer of Value Partners**, said: *'The new joint venture is an important part of our expansion plans in Greater China. We're strengthening our presence in our strategic markets, which include mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. There will be added benefits in having a strong base in the Taiwanese market. Our investment in KBC Concord is an important milestone, as it will provide Value Partners with a solid platform to establish our business in Taiwan. Most importantly, we remain very positive on the growth prospects of the domestic economy and fund management market in Taiwan. We also look forward to working with Concord Securities, our new partner, on this venture.'*

Note for the editors:

About KBC Concord (www.kbcconcord.com)

KBC Concord is a joint venture between KBC Asset Management, Concord Securities and a group of minority shareholders, incorporated under the laws of Taiwan (ROC) and with its registered office in Taipei. KBC Concord currently manages 1 fund, has about 240 million TWD (an equivalent of about 6 million EUR) in assets under management and employs 18 people.

About Value Partners Group Limited (www.valuepartnersgroup.com.hk)

Value Partners Group Limited is an independent, value-oriented asset management firm. Founded in Hong Kong in February 1993, Value Partners is ranked among the top performing fund management firms in the industry. The Group was listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong in November 2007 (symbol ticker 806 HK). Focused on the Greater China and Asia-Pacific regions, Value Partners has built up a strong reputation across the international asset management industry as a leading value investor. The Group's products and services apply classic value investing practices, through products that include absolute return long-biased funds, long-short hedge funds, exchange-traded funds, quantitative funds, and private equity funds. At 28 February 2011, its unaudited assets under management came to approximately 8 billion USD.

About Concord Securities (www.6016.com.tw)

Established in Taiwan in 1990, Concord Securities Co. Ltd. is a comprehensive securities company. Its headquarters are located in Taipei and has 25 branches spread all over Taiwan. Concord Securities currently has total assets of over 20 billion TWD. The company offers services in brokerage, futures, managed futures, investment consultancy, fixed-income instruments, underwriting, derivatives, proprietary trading, asset management and investment banking across-straits in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan as it moves towards internationalisation.

About KBC Asset Management NV (www.kbcam.be).

KBC Asset Management NV is a wholly owned subsidiary of the KBC group. It is a leading Belgian asset manager which also has a dominant position in Central and Eastern Europe. It is mainly active in KBC's home markets of Belgium and Central and Eastern Europe.

About the KBC group (www.kbc.com)

KBC is a bancassurer that focuses on its home markets in Belgium and Central and Eastern Europe (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria). Its headquarters are located in Brussels (Belgium), the heart of Europe. The group employs around 54 000 staff and caters for 12 million customers. KBC Group NV is listed on NYSE Euronext Brussels (ticker symbol 'KBC').

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