

## Prentis Donegan merges with Price Forbes

PRENTIS DONEGAN TO MERGE WITH PRICE FORBES TO EXPAND WHOLESALE CAPABILITIES AND PRESENCE IN THE LLOYD'S AND LONDON MARKET

**Move will add scale and leverage to combined wholesale operations. Reinforces commitment to serving independent agents and brokers.**

**London, June 15, 2004** – Prentis Donegan Partners and Price Forbes Ltd. announced today that they have signed an agreement to merge their wholesale insurance broking and underwriting management businesses. The combined organization will operate and trade under the Price Forbes name.

Price Forbes is a unit of the global wholesale broking and underwriting management group comprised of Price Forbes in the UK and Bermuda, Crump Insurance Services and Victor O. Schinnerer in the US, and Encon in Canada. Prentis Donegan is a leading independent insurance and reinsurance broker in London and Bermuda.

Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Simon Fisher, the chairman of Price Forbes, will continue as chairman of the newly formed company. Michael Donegan, Chairman of Prentis Donegan, will become Chief Executive Officer of Price Forbes.

The combined entity produces premiums of approximately \$585 million and has a staff of 175. The merger more than doubles the size of the group's wholesale presence in the Lloyd's, London and Bermuda markets.

Jeremy D. Cooke, president and CEO of the group, said, "This transaction is a first step in growing the Group's wholesale presence globally and demonstrates our commitment to serving independent clients. We are very excited about the opportunity to combine these two very distinct, yet complementary brokers. The combined operation will greatly enhance our ability to serve both existing and new clients with a broader range of products and a larger team of professionals."

Simon Fisher, chairman of Price Forbes, said, "By bringing together the strengths and capabilities of our two organizations, we are creating a significant force in the wholesale broking community."

Michael Donegan, chairman of Prentis Donegan, said, "We are delighted to announce the merger of Price Forbes and Prentis Donegan. This merger provides a unique opportunity for our clients, underwriters and staff. The two businesses are highly complementary and we believe that Price Forbes is an excellent partner for Prentis Donegan. We look forward to working with Simon and his team at Price Forbes to ensure a successful combination of these two leading franchises."

The move will enable independent insurance agents and brokers from around the world to access the Lloyd's, London, Bermuda and world markets with the enhanced range of skills and experience offered by the new company.

Prentis Donegan, with offices in London and Bermuda, is a leading independent risk intermediary specializing in a number of Non-Marine and Marine insurance and reinsurance classes of business, including Real Estate, Transportation, Energy, Marine and Underwriting Management. In April 2004, *The Sunday Times* name it one of Britain's 100 fastest profit growth companies.

Price Forbes is a wholesale insurance broker in London and Bermuda that specializes in Non-Marine Property, with particular expertise in Utilities and Energy, Casualty, Medical Stop Loss, Professional Liability and Directors' and Officers insurance, as well as Binding Authority business.