

**IXIS**

CORPORATE & INVESTMENT BANK

Press release

15/11/2005

IXIS Corporate & Investment Bank takes over Nexgen

IXIS Corporate & Investment Bank, a 38% shareholder in Nexgen Financial Holdings Ltd (Nexgen), has signed jointly with Nexgen's other shareholders an agreement for the acquisition of Nexgen's shares. Subject to approval by the financial authorities, the operation should be completed before the end of the first quarter 2006.

Nexgen was founded at the end of 2000 in Dublin, Ireland. In 2002, IXIS CIB acquired a 38% stake in the company which was looking to increase its capital. Nexgen is present in Dublin, Singapore and Paris. The company provides its clients in Europe and Asia, predominately corporates, with customized financial solutions using various financial instruments (equity derivatives, structured credits, re-insurance, etc.). At the end of 2004, Nexgen shareholders' equity amounted to 219 million dollars. Its net profits for 2004 totalled 17.2 million dollars versus 8.4 million in 2003, for a net operating income of 43 million dollars.

The founders and executives of Nexgen are party to this transaction. They will remain at the head of the company, whose growth should be accelerated with the support of a shareholder with a solid balance sheet. Luc Giraud and Ravi Viswanathan, joint CEOs of Nexgen, will take on new roles within IXIS CIB.

"We are very pleased with this logical progression concerning the capital of Nexgen. With this takeover, IXIS CIB further expands its service offering both in France and abroad. Following the agreements with Lazard specifically in the Equity Capital Markets sector, the significant investments in the financing sector, and our financial engineering capacity in infrastructures, public services and real estate, IXIS CIB is becoming a reference for companies and their executives", declared Nicolas Fourt, member of the Executive Board of IXIS CIB in charge of market activities.

IXIS CIB was advised by FDR Finance on this operation.

IXIS Corporate & Investment Bank is Groupe Caisse d'Epargne's investment and banking arm. It provides a range of high value-added financial services to institutional investors, corporations, financial institutions and local governments.

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