

## **D. E. SHAW GROUP AFFILIATE APPROVED AS NYMEX MEMBER**

**NEW YORK, March 8, 2007**—The D. E. Shaw group announced today that one of its affiliates, D. E. Shaw Plasma Portfolios, L.L.C., was recently approved for membership in the NYMEX Division of the New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc., the world's largest physical commodities exchange. This marks the first time in the New York Mercantile Exchange's 135-year history that a firm historically focused primarily on alternative investment strategies has held a membership on the exchange.

"We're very pleased to have our membership approved by NYMEX's Board of Directors, and believe this approval marks an important milestone in the continued institutionalization of the hedge fund industry," said Kevin Fox, a managing director of D. E. Shaw & Co., L.P. and head of the firm's energy group. "Our member status meaningfully reduces our cost of trading on the NYMEX platform, and we thus expect to see an increased volume of orders we place there."

The D. E. Shaw group is a global investment and technology development firm. Since its organization in 1988, the firm has earned an international reputation for financial innovation, technological leadership, and an extraordinarily distinguished staff. The D. E. Shaw group encompasses a number of closely related entities with approximately 1,000 employees, \$25 billion in aggregate investment capital, and offices in New York, London, Silicon Valley, Houston, Kansas City, San Francisco, Washington D.C., Bermuda, and Hyderabad and Gurgaon, India.

*This press release is provided for the reader's information only. The D. E. Shaw group does not endorse the information discussed and makes no representation as to its accuracy or adequacy. The reader should not rely on such information for any purpose.*

*This press release does not constitute the provision of investment advice. In addition, it does not convey an offer of any type and is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, an offer to sell, or the solicitation of an offer to buy, any securities or other financial products.*

*Please note the date set forth in the dateline of the press release, as the press release has not been updated for any information in it that might have changed.*

*Accordingly, any beliefs and/or opinions provided in this press release constitute the understanding of the entity(ies) or individual(s) providing such beliefs and/or opinions as of the date of the press release and may not reflect the beliefs and/or opinions that such entity(ies) or individual(s) would provide today. In addition, no assurances can be made that any aims, assumptions, expectations, strategies, and/or goals described were or will be realized or that the activities or any performance described did or will continue at all or in the same manner as at the time of the press release.*

*Broker-dealer activities of the D. E. Shaw group are conducted in the United States through D. E. Shaw Securities, L.L.C. or D. E. Shaw Valence, L.L.C., which are registered as broker-dealers with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and are members of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. D. E. Shaw & Co., L.P.; D. E. Shaw & Co., L.L.C.; D. E. Shaw Investment Management, L.L.C.; and Laminar Direct Capital GP, Inc. are registered as investment advisers with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and conduct investment advisory activities.*