



Wood & Co becomes a member of M&A International, the leading M&A alliance

PRAGUE, May 16 – Wood & Co, the leading Czech independent investment bank and stock brokerage, became a member of M&A International (MAI).

Wood & Co exclusively represents the Czech Republic and Slovakia in this leading international M&A alliance of independent investment banking advisors specializing in mid-size M&A transactions.

The purpose of the alliance is to provide its members with international contacts and the ability to efficiently originate and execute cross-border transactions. The members are generally leading firms in their market segments.

“The membership will allow us to offer our clients access to potential buyers for local businesses from all over the world. The transaction experience available in the alliance is just unparalleled,” says Vladimír Jaros, Wood & Co’s Partner responsible for Investment Banking.

Membership of MAI offers a highly successful business model, where the dynamics, local knowledge and flexibility of the smaller company are combined with the strength and international experience of a large global organization.

Members are expected to promote the network and support each others businesses but each firm remains completely independent and retains its name and corporate culture. Member companies are also free to work independently with any other firm outside the network.

M&A International Inc. is the world's leading alliance of mid-market merger & acquisition specialists with over 400 professional advisors in 42 member firms in 38 countries. In 2006, MAI’s members closed over 290 deals worth more than \$17.5 billion, of which 88 were cross-border. MAI has founded the following:

- the M&A Mid-Market Forum (www.midmarketforum.com)
- the Strategic Acquirors Forum (www.mergers.net/saf)
- the M&A International Media Award (www.mergers.net/award).



Wood & Co is the leading independent investment bank in central and eastern Europe. Focusing on high quality equity broking and investment banking services, the firm has gained a deep understanding of the region.

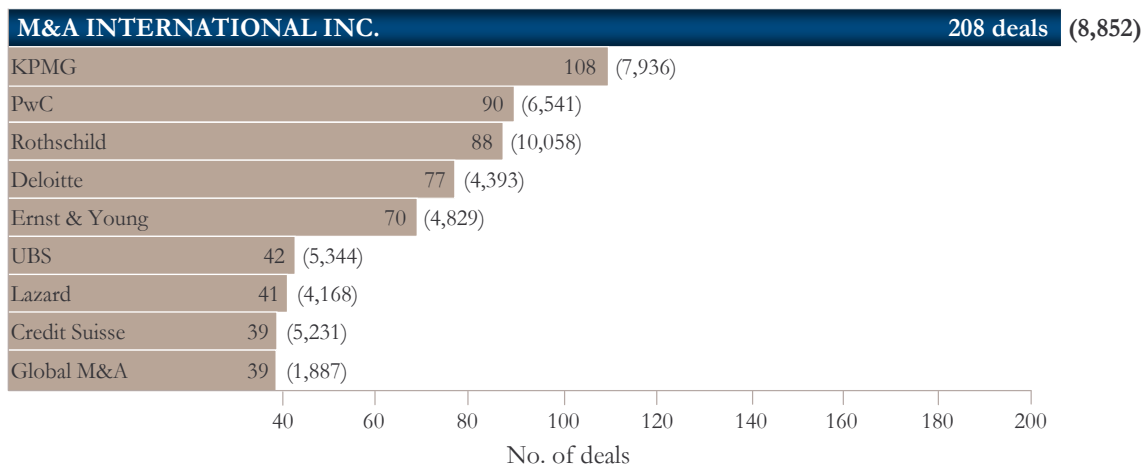
Over the past decade, the firm has expanded its scope of activities to cover the full range of investment banking and corporate finance services including large scale privatizations, initial public offerings, capital markets transactions, mergers and acquisitions, fundraising, and corporate advisory to foreign corporate clients and domestic issuers and institutions.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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Global mid-market* – 2006 by volume (value \$m)



*Deals completed from \$5m to \$250m
Source: www.mergermarket.com; M&A International Inc.