



Press Release

Munich, 26 October 2006

Crown acquires Westfalenbank from HypoVereinsbank

To expand its broad and diverse capabilities in Europe, Crown NorthCorp has today concluded the acquisition of Westfalenbank in Germany from HypoVereinsbank (HVB).

This transaction achieves a milestone in Crown's mission to build a pan-European servicing operation, which extends from mortgage administration and portfolio management to commercial asset management. It will increase the Group's scale, diversity and ability to retain and attract top tier clients. The sales price remains confidential.

Crown's intention is to put Westfalenbank at the heart of its activities in Europe and to build on the Bank's expertise and its history in the German market. Crown's goal is to create a "servicing bank" for the emerging sectors of the German mortgage markets. Crown will bring 30 years of experience gained in Europe and in the US of creating efficient platforms providing services to the real estate and debt capital markets.

Crown has operated businesses in Europe both within the mortgage and property industry for more than 10 years. UK based Crown Mortgage Management Limited was the first European Mortgage Servicer to be accredited by all three major rating agencies, Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch Ratings. At present, Crown's European activities cover the Benelux region, the Nordic region, Germany and the UK and total volumes under management correspond to approximately EUR 13 billion.

Joachim Paulus and Christian von Villiez, who accomplished the restructuring of Westfalenbank on behalf of HVB, will leave the HVB to stay as board members of Westfalenbank after the sale is completed.

"The acquisition of the bank provides Crown with the platform we have been seeking to expand our business and claim the position as a truly Pan-European Servicer." says Ronald E. Roark, CEO of Crown NorthCorp. "It provides a good platform, with many highly skilled people for consolidating our existing operations and will allow us to grow mortgage servicing and origination in niche markets in Germany and in other European countries."

The deal sets a final point on the restructuring of Westfalenbank after the sale of its Asset Management and Private Banking businesses in 2005 and the integration of its Corporate Customer business with more than 1500 small and medium enterprises and a lending volume of EUR 1 billion into HypoVereinsbank in June 2006. The relationship between Crown and Westfalenbank is not new: Both companies already closely cooperate in servicing distressed loans for investors, who do not have servicing capacities in Germany.

"With Crown Group we now found a highly reputable, well known purchaser with long lasting experience in the area of financial servicing. Crown is a partner who will continue Westfalenbank within a new business model", said Wolfgang Sprißler, CEO of HypoVereinsbank.

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Note to the editor:

HypoVereinsbank

HypoVereinsbank is a member of the new UniCredit Group, which occupies the leading position in the economic area comprising Italy, Germany, Austria, and central and eastern Europe with more than 140,000 employees, 7,000 branches and over 28 million customers.

In Germany, HVB is the second-largest private-sector bank with more than 26,000 employees, 680 branches and over 4 million customers. The core competences include private and corporate customers, real-estate finance, investment banking as well as asset management.

Crown NorthCorp

Crown NorthCorp provides services to the real estate capital markets in Europe and in the US. Business areas include Asset Management, Mortgage Management and Mortgage Origination. By mid 2006, Crown NorthCorp had some EUR 13 billion of assets and loans under management.

In Europe, Crown is active in the Nordic region, the Benelux area, Germany and the UK with subsidiaries or through joint ventures. The European head office is located in London. The parent company Crown NorthCorp Inc is a US SEC reporting company.