



5 October 2007

### **COLLEGE HILL BUYS NORTHBANK**

- College Hill extends reach in Life Sciences
- Latest in a series of moves to extend geographic and sector reach

Growing business communications consultancy College Hill announced today that it has acquired Life Science specialists Northbank Communications.

Northbank CEO Sue Charles will lead College Hill's Life Sciences sector team as Managing Partner. Northbank senior team members Katja Stout and Chris Fisher will also be appointed Partner and Associate Partner respectively. Northbank has offices in London, Manchester and Munich, with 32 staff serving some 100 life science clients, including Oxford BioMedica, Sigma-Aldrich, Novozymes Delata, BTG, GE Healthcare, Smiths Detection, Biota, Ablynx and Perkin Elmer.

This acquisition is a further step in College Hill's strategy to invest in industry sector teams, bringing deeper sector specialisation to the benefit of clients.

College Hill Chairman, Alex Sandberg and Richard Nichols, Group CEO, said:

*"We are continuing to invest in sector specialisation, practice areas and geography as we build College Hill into a rounded international business communications consultancy. Sue and the Northbank team have a highly regarded presence in the life sciences sector and we're delighted to welcome them. They significantly strengthen our client offering in the sector and in turn, Northbank's clients now have available to them a wider range of disciplines and reach."*

Northbank's Sue Charles added:

*"This move gives our existing clients real benefits in terms of range of services, expertise and back-up available. We will fit well with the College Hill culture, a culture that emphasises client partnership and creativity."*

## **ENQUIRIES:**

### **College Hill**

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Alex Sandberg, Chairman

Richard Nichols, Group Chief Executive

### **Northbank Communications**

**+44 20 7268 3248**

Sue Charles, CEO

## **Notes for Editors**

### **College Hill**

College Hill is a business communications consultancy with offices in the City of London, Johannesburg and Hong Kong, and planning to open in further international centres shortly. Led by 24 partners, College Hill is structured in specialist industry sector teams that are retained year-on-year by a substantial number of UK and overseas corporations and institutions. College Hill offers a range of communication services, including financial communications and media relations, public policy, crisis communications, brand positioning, strategic research, internal engagement, design, and media training.

### **Northbank Communications**

Northbank Communications is a full service PR and communications consultancy, focused on serving science-based companies and organisations, with a strong emphasis on the life science industry. It has focused practise areas in corporate communications, financial communications and marketing communications, and an in-house design studio. It serves a combination of retained and project clients from across Europe, the USA and Australasia, representing most of its clients on a global basis. Northbank Communications operates from offices in London, Manchester and Munich, Germany. It was formed in 2002 through the merger of Charles Consultants into STMP Marketing Solutions Ltd. Through College Hill, Northbank will provide additional services in Public Policy, Strategic Research and Internal Engagement.