

Press Release

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FD strengthens Issues, Crisis and Litigation practice through the acquisition of Partner PR

Financial Dynamics (FD), the leading global business communications consultancy, today announced that it has acquired Partner PR, the specialist issues, crisis and litigation communications firm. Jonathan Hawker, the founder of Partner PR, will join FD's established Issues Management practice as a Senior Vice President along with fellow Partner PR employee Susie Tydeman.

Partner PR was established by Jonathan Hawker in 2003, following his departure from Fleishman-Hillard, where he served as UK Head of Issues, Crisis and Litigation Communications. He began his career as a television news reporter for BBC News, ITN, Channel 4 and Five News, working in frontline conflict zones in Africa, as well as covering British politics and current affairs throughout Europe.

At FD's London office, the Partner PR team will integrate with the 15-strong European Issues Management practice, established in 2003, and their North American counterparts in FD's various US offices. FD announced in March 2005 the strengthening of its issues, crisis and litigation communications offer with the appointment of a highly experienced industry team, led by Harlan Teller and Harlan Loeb. The European practice has particular specialisations in litigation support, activist engagement and reputation management in private equity and corporate recovery assignments.

Commenting on the acquisition of Partner PR, FD's CEO Charles Watson said: *"Over the last 15 years, Financial Dynamics has made its name handling some of the most challenging international situations focused on the capital markets. We have, however, responded to increasing demand for other advisory disciplines critical to the protection of corporate reputation. Within our European and North American teams, we have now built a world class capability in issues management and litigation support and I am delighted to welcome our new colleagues from Partner PR into what has now become one of our fastest growing practice areas."*

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Notes to Editors:

Financial Dynamics is one of the most highly regarded brands in the communications industry. FD employs over 300 professional staff and advises more than 400 clients worldwide through its offices in London, New York, Chicago, Washington, Boston, San Francisco, Frankfurt, Paris, Dublin, Athens, Bahrain, Stockholm and Mumbai. FD's services include financial public relations, investor relations, crisis & issues management and corporate, business-to-business & business-to-consumer communications. Financial Dynamics is also a market leader in M&A advisory work.

In July 2003 Financial Dynamics was subject to a management buyout supported by Advent International.