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PRESS RELEASE

“EPIC Investment Advisers in merger talks”

EPIC Investment Advisers (EIA), the leading independent consultant to pension fund trustees, is pleased to announce that it has entered into exclusive merger negotiations with Allenbridge Group plc, the specialist fund management performance appraisal business.

EIA was established by a group of senior City fund managers in 2003 to serve the growing demand for independent advice on governance and investment-related issues in the pensions arena.

EPIC Investment Partners, of which EIA had been a division since 2003, was acquired in January 2007 by Syndicate Asset Management, the specialist fund management consolidator.

The Myners review in 2001 (and a further report in 2004) highlighted the need* to raise the level of knowledge and competence in trustee boards and to strengthen the decision-making processes of investment committees.

Chris Edge, Chief Executive of EIA, said: “We believe it is important for the next stage of our development that we clearly establish an independent base. The change of ownership from an investment management house to a recognised impartial adviser will help to underline the integrity of our advice.”

Anthony Yadgaroff, Group Managing Director of Allenbridge, said: “The fit of Epic’s business model with our established advisory business to banks, funds and institutions is attractive. We are excited by the prospect of working with Epic’s talented and experienced team to develop the many opportunities for growth in the pensions market.”

Notes to Editors

About EPIC Investment Advisers

EPIC Investment Advisers is based in the City of London, with representative offices in Glasgow and Lancaster. Its advisers provide proactive assistance with all investment matters including:

- Developing and reviewing investment policy
- Long term strategic asset allocation and tactical advice on shorter term investment strategy
- Helping trustees discuss and understand investment terminology and strategies
- Helping assess and question advice provided by actuaries and other service providers
- Constructive monitoring and review of investment managers
- Improving market timing – for example, switching key asset classes
- Tailored trustee training and education

EIA, through its panel of investment experts, provides each client with an experienced adviser to act as their knowledge bridge between trustees and company management, who are responsible for decisions and actions, and the actuarial consultants and investment managers, who provide a range of inputs and potential solutions.

* *"All told, there is a desperate need for trustees, who have been thrust into the limelight by the Myners report, to get access to more advice - not just to safeguard the interests of members but to protect themselves against legal and regulatory action".* Philip Coggan, FT March 2004.

http://www.epicip.com/Epic_Investment_Advisers/index.htm

About Allenbridge

Allenbridge Group plc was founded in 1985, and provides a performance measurement and fund management selection service for the wealth management industry.

Its Hedgeinfo division provides rating, research and consultancy to banks, institutional investors, and family offices on the hedge fund market.

Allenbridge also offers advice to private individuals on investment products and tax shelter vehicles.

Allenbridge won the "Best EIS Research" EISA award in 2005, and won "Best EIS Publisher" in 2006. Allenbridge is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

<http://www.hedgeinfo.com/>

<http://www.allenbridge.co.uk/index.htm>

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