



Reuters: Instinet and Island Complete Merger

September 23, 2002 at 12:00 AM EDT

London – Reuters subsidiary Instinet today completed its merger with Island ECN. The full statement published by Instinet follows below.

Following the close of this all-stock transaction, Reuters holds 62% of Instinet's share capital on a fully diluted basis.

As previously announced, Reuters expects to receive a special dividend payment from Instinet of US\$207 million on or about October 3. Instinet will pay the special dividend of US\$1.00 per share to stockholders of record on September 19.

INSTINET AND ISLAND ECN CLOSE HISTORIC MERGER

New York, September 20, 2002 – Instinet Group Incorporated (Nasdaq: INET) and Island ECN announced today that they have completed their merger. Effective today, Island Holding Company has become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Instinet Group Incorporated. This combination will offer professional investors and traders superior trading platforms and diverse trading choices in worldwide marketplaces.

"This merger will provide customers with broader and deeper liquidity and offer them better execution opportunities and improved performance across multiple markets in the U.S. and around the globe. We look forward to setting the standard for delivering the most innovative products and services to our customers," said Ed Nicoll, Instinet's newly appointed Chief Executive Officer.

About Instinet:

Instinet, through affiliates, is the largest global electronic agency securities broker and has been providing investors with electronic trading solutions for more than 30 years. Our services enable buyers and sellers worldwide to trade securities directly and anonymously with each other, have the opportunity to gain price improvement for their trades and lower their overall trading costs. Through our electronic platforms, our customers also can access over 40 securities markets throughout the world, including Nasdaq, the NYSE and stock exchanges in Frankfurt, Hong Kong, London, Paris, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto and Zurich. We also provide our customers with access to research generated by us and by third parties, as well as various informational and decision-making tools. Unlike most traditional broker-dealers, we act solely as an agent for our customers and do not trade securities for our own account or maintain inventories of securities for sale.

About Island:

Island ECN is a technology leader in electronic marketplaces, handling approximately one out of every five trades in Nasdaq securities.¹ Island ECN is also the largest single marketplace for the most heavily traded security in the world, QQQ.²

1. Source: Market share for Island calculated from internal data. Island reports a majority of its trades in Nasdaq securities to the Cincinnati Stock Exchange. Nasdaq's Economic Research Department excludes such trades from their calculations of market share. Island calculates its market share by adding total trades reported to Nasdaq with total trades reported to the CSE.
2. Source: Consolidated volume from AmexTrader, volume for NYSE and AMEX acquired from Reuters terminal, Island volume from Island internal data. Island percent market share of QQQ trading calculated by dividing Island total reported QQQ share volume into consolidated volume. AMEX and NYSE market shares calculated by dividing the volume reported.

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This news release may be deemed to include forward-looking statements relating to Instinet. Certain important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those disclosed in such forward-looking statements are included in Instinet's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2002 as Exhibit 99.1, and other documents filed with the SEC and available on the Company's website. Certain information regarding Nasdaq trading volumes is also included in the Instinet's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001 and on the Company's website at www.instinet.com. These statements speak only as of the date of this news release, and the Company does not undertake any obligation to update them.

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This news release may be deemed to include forward-looking statements relating to Reuters within the meaning of Section 27A of the US Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Certain important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those disclosed in such forward-looking statements are described in Reuters Annual Report and Form 20-F for the year to 31 December 2001 under the heading 'Risk Factors'. Copies of the Annual Report and Form 20-F are available on request from Reuters Group PLC, 85 Fleet Street, London EC4P 4AJ.