

Zurich, May 7, 2009

## **SAM and Gatehouse Bank Globally Introduce First Shariah-compliant, Water-focused Investment Strategy**

- **SAM, one of the world's leading asset managers in the field of sustainability investments, in conjunction with Gatehouse Bank, one of the leading Islamic banks, are offering on a global basis the first ever Shariah-compliant investment strategy in the area of water.**
- **This investment strategy offers investors with a long-term investment horizon the opportunity to participate in the worldwide growth of forward-looking, sustainability-oriented companies involved in the entire value chain of water, while adhering to Shariah norms.**

Together with Gatehouse Bank, SAM has broadened even further its range of international investment strategies. Gatehouse Bank is specialized in Islamic finance and banking and in 2008 was named the Best New Islamic Bank by Islamic Finance News. This new collaborative Islamic finance water strategy affords investors with a long-term time horizon the opportunity to gain a financial interest in sustainability-oriented companies that offer technologies, products and services throughout the entire value chain of water processing and transportation.

Within the framework of this collaborative effort, Gatehouse Bank will bring its know-how and expertise to bear in the Shariah screening of the companies in the fund by its Shariah Advisory Board, while SAM will attend to the asset management aspects of the strategy. SAM's more than 14 years of experience in the management of sustainability investments – in particular, also since 2001 in the area of water – and Gatehouse Bank's extensive know-how in terms of Shariah screening and a world-wide network of Shariah-compliant investors form the basis for a successful joint venture.

The world-wide market for water is characterized by its above-average growth potential. Global developments – such as population growth, investments in the renewal of water-resource infrastructure, the strategic need for potable water, as well as efficient water management – will represent significant growth drivers in the years ahead.

**Sander van Eijkern, CEO of SAM:** “By joining forces with Gatehouse Bank, we have at our side a very competent and highly reputable partner for the launch of the world’s first Islamic finance water strategy - a strategy that affords long-term oriented investors attractive, Shariah-compliant opportunities in the areas of water. This partnership enables us to gain access to the promising segment of Islamic finance, which is expected to grow substantially in the years ahead. Internationally, SAM is ideally positioned to participate in this up-and-coming field and thereby further expand its overall market share.”

**David Testa, CEO of Gatehouse Bank:** “We are pleased to have found an innovative partner – SAM – who offers incomparable specialized know-how and experience in the area of sustainability investments. Thanks to our own expertise in Islamic finance, together we can offer investors a tailor-made Shariah-compliant strategy for investments in the sustainable water sector.”

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**Further information:**

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**About SAM**

SAM was founded in 1995 as one of the world’s first asset management companies for sustainability investments. Today, the company ranks among the globally leading managers of sustainability investments and theme-based funds in the areas of water, climate and clean energy. Its worldwide clientele comprises banks, insurance companies, pension funds, family offices and private investors. SAM has a comprehensive portfolio of theme-based products in the areas of new energy sources, water, new materials, healthy living and climate. In addition, it offers institutional investors a broad range of various investment solutions. SAM affords investors a great sense of responsibility and transparency in terms of their investments. SAM evaluates and analyzes leading companies on the basis of industry-specific sustainability criteria considering economic, environmental and social dimensions. Integrating those future-oriented investment criteria into the company valuation and investment process represents the

foundation of its investment philosophy. SAM's know-how is based on its proprietary, independent research approach and an active, international sustainability network. Together with Dow Jones Indexes and STOXX, SAM has launched an entire family of sustainability indices to measure the performance of companies that hold a top position in their industry in terms of sustainability. Within the framework of this collaboration, SAM has compiled one of the world's largest sustainability database and analyzes annually more than 1,000 exchange-listed companies for the added value they generate in terms of economic, environmental and social criteria. SAM and Robeco, a member of the Dutch Rabobank Group (S&P AAA), have entered into a strategic alliance in order to establish for product development, innovation and distribution purposes the world's leading platform for sustainability investments. SAM is headquartered in Zurich (Switzerland) and is present in Europe, Australia, the USA and Canada. The company employs about 100 individuals.

#### **About Gatehouse Bank plc**

Gatehouse Bank plc ("Gatehouse") was incorporated as a wholly-owned public limited company in the UK by The Securities House of Kuwait in 2007. Gatehouse received approval from the Financial Services Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008 for a license to act as a deposit taking banking entity operating within the UK regulatory environment.

The bank is a leading institution in the Islamic finance sector, both in selected markets globally and specifically in the City of London as one of the major global financial centres of Islamic finance expertise. Gatehouse Bank focuses on Islamic Capital Markets, Syndicated Financings, Institutional Wealth Management, Real Estate, Treasury Products and Shariah Advisory Services. Our core markets include the UK and Europe, US and the GCC, enabling Gatehouse to operate as a natural bridge between the Middle East and the world's largest financial markets. Demand for Islamic financial services is growing rapidly in the GCC, Asia, North America and Europe. Gatehouse Bank is strongly positioned to benefit from the increase in demand for such services and play a major role in shaping their future development.

#### **Gatehouse Bank plc**

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