



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Alta Group continues its European expansion – Miguel Vara joins Alta Team

London – 11th September 2006 – In the latest of a string of recent appointments, The Alta Group today announced that Miguel Vara Luna has joined the European team as an Associate, based out of Madrid, Spain. Working closely with Javier de León Blanco, Mr Vara will use his considerable experience to further develop opportunities within the Spanish market. Commenting on his appointment, Mr Vara said “The chance to work with the premier leasing consultancy in the world was just too good to turn down. I feel that my background complements the existing skills in the Group, but also, the stature of the company means that I will have the possibility to work on projects that will call on all of my experience, and this really excites me”

Miguel Vara has over 30 years experience within the financial services sector, focussing in particular on IPOs and M&A transactions in the 1980's. He joined the Banesto group in 1989, becoming General Manager of LeaseBanesto two years later to develop their corporate business sector. In 1993 he became General Manager for Banesto Leasing, the retail business, and oversaw the merging of the two arms, resulting in a company that now provides global leasing services. After leaving Banesto, he then became Chairman and CEO of ING Lease España, before leaving in 2002 to set himself up as an independent corporate advisor, where he has spent the past four year providing strategic advice and M&A services for mid-sized corporates.



Javier de León Blanco, a Principal in the Alta Group's European region, said: “The Spanish leasing market is really exciting at the moment with a number of interesting developments. With Miguel we have a highly experienced individual who can help us provide the solutions that our Clients need. His knowledge and profile in the market will be crucial to our continuing success in the region and I am really looking forward to working with him”. Patrick Gouin, another European Principal added: “As our European expansion progresses, the opportunities are multiplying and it is important that we continue to maintain the quality of what we can deliver to our Clients. As such, we need to maintain the calibre of people as we expand, and Miguel provides us with additional complementary skills and an outstanding track record in the Spanish market.”

ABOUT THE ALTA GROUP

The Alta Group, established in 1992, provides a broad array of strategic consulting and advisory services, education and training programmes, merger and acquisition and dispute resolution services for companies in the global equipment leasing and asset finance industries. Its clients include manufacturers, banks, independent lessors of various sizes and others in the industry. The Alta team is made up of more than 35 international professionals committed to the asset finance business, including former CEOs, company founders and industry thought leaders who are active in their areas of expertise. They collaborate and share their in-depth knowledge and insights with today's business leaders who face a range of challenges, both old and new. The firm has built a reputation on creative thinking, trust and professionalism. The Alta Group supports clients in North America, Latin America, Western, Central and Eastern Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Australia. For more information, visit www.thealtagroup.eu.com



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