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NATIXIS EXPANDS ITS ASSET MANAGEMENT BUSINESS IN THE UNITED STATES

IXIS Asset Management US Group, a subsidiary of NATIXIS, agrees to acquire Gateway Investment Advisers, L. P.

IXIS Asset Management US Group announced today that it has entered into an agreement to acquire Gateway Investment Advisers, a Cincinnati-based investment manager with \$7.5 billion in Assets under Management (as of March 31, 2007), including the Gateway Fund, as well as a variety of sub-advised mandates and private accounts. The terms of the transaction were not disclosed. Completion of the transaction is subject to customary closing conditions, including obtaining any necessary regulatory and other approvals.

Gateway is best known for a risk-adjusted investment approach that seeks to capture the majority of the higher returns associated with equity market investments while exposing investors to significantly less risk and volatility than other equity investments. The firm's strategy is to invest a broadly diversified common stock portfolio and manage risk and volatility downward by selling cash settled index "call" options and purchasing index "put" options.

"Gateway fills an important niche in the NATIXIS family of investment companies, and we are very happy they have chosen to join us," said Pierre Servant, Head of Asset Management at NATIXIS, President and Chief Executive Officer of IXIS Asset Management US Group. *"Gateway enjoys a highly competitive long-term track record based on a well-tested risk management methodology. We expect demand for its style of risk-adjusted investment products to be strong and growing, particularly in the rapidly expanding retirement market."*

"We are very excited about the opportunities we see arising out of our new relationship with NATIXIS, particularly the chance to reach a significantly broadened client base through their distribution organizations in the asset management business," said Gateway President and Chief Executive Officer J. Patrick Rogers. *"We have been very impressed with the consistently high level of achievement so many of the other NATIXIS affiliates have compiled in the course of their affiliation with NATIXIS."*

In line with the NATIXIS multi-boutique business model, Gateway will operate as an autonomous organization. The firm will retain its brand name and continue to be headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio. The investment team will remain in place and will continue to implement the firm's hedged equity strategy.

Representing IXIS Asset Management US Group as advisor in the agreement was Merrill Lynch & Company. Gateway was represented by Mitchell Advisers of Atlanta.

About Gateway Investment Advisers

Founded in 1977, Gateway Investment Advisers, L.P. has one of the industry's longest running option hedging programs. Noted for its accomplishment in hedging client portfolios during the market crash of October 1987, the firm extended its hedging strategy to its flagship mutual fund in January 1988. Gateway hedged equity offerings include two open-end mutual funds, four closed-end funds and one offshore fund, as well as individual, foundation, endowment, pension and insurance accounts. Gateway services are available through broker/dealer-affiliated advisers and independent investment advisers.

About IXIS Asset Management Group

IXIS Asset Management Group is the primary asset management subsidiary of NATIXIS, a global financial services organization. The firm's multi-boutique approach brings together the expertise of a line-up of specialized investment management firms based in Europe, the United States and Asia to offer a full spectrum of equity, fixed income and alternative investment strategies.

Headquartered in Paris and Boston, the organization's assets under management totaled \$808 billion at March 31, 2007, placing the firm among the top 15 asset management firms globally¹ and among the top five in Europe. The group's U.S. holdings include a diverse line-up of independent investment affiliates including Harris Associates, managers of the Oakmark Funds, and Loomis, Sayles & Company. **IXIS Asset Management Group will change its name to Natixis Global Asset Management on June 29, 2007.**

About NATIXIS

NATIXIS, the "investments and projects bank" is the jointly held bank of Caisse d'Epargne and Banque Populaire in corporate and investment banking, asset management, private equity and private banking, financial services and receivables management. Backed by nearly 23,000 employees, with a net banking income of €7.3bn, it is a major player in its sector in Europe.

Natixis enjoys expertise worldwide acknowledged in credit insurance (number 3 worldwide) and structured financing (real estate, commodities, asset-backed finance and leverage finance).

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(1) Pro forma, based on Pensions & Investments, "Special Report: World's Largest Managers" (September 4, 2006). Includes consolidated asset management businesses of NATIXIS.