

The logo for JRJ Group, featuring the text "JRJ GROUP" in a serif font, with a horizontal bar above and below the text.The logo for MAREX, featuring the text "MAREX" in a bold, sans-serif font, with a green arrow pointing up and to the right.

## **JRJ GROUP REACHES AGREEMENT TO ACQUIRE A MAJORITY STAKE IN MAREX**

LONDON, 10 December 2009: JRJ Group ("JRJ"), the London-based investment firm established by Jeremy Isaacs and Roger Nagioff, announces that it has reached agreement to acquire a majority stake in MAREX Group Limited ("MAREX" or the "Company"), one of Europe's leading independent futures brokers, providing specialist trading services for commodity and financial markets. Funds affiliated with Marathon Asset Management ("Marathon"), the current majority shareholder, will retain a minority stake in the business, as will MAREX management. The transaction is subject to regulatory approval and expected to close in early 2010. Terms of the transaction have not been disclosed.

JRJ's growth capital, direct operational involvement, strategic vision and global contacts will allow MAREX to further enhance its strong position in the commodities brokerage industry.

Jeremy Isaacs, Co-Founding Partner of JRJ, said: "MAREX is already a leader in a dynamic, growing market and is run by a great management team. We're delighted to partner with this excellent company."

Mark Slade, CEO of MAREX, said: "This is a new era for MAREX. The partnership with JRJ represents a very positive development for MAREX's clients and employees. The members of JRJ's team possess a highly relevant skill set and have superb track records in building and managing complex financial services businesses. I'm excited about developing MAREX into a world-class financial institution with their expertise and support."

Louis Hanover, Chief Investment Officer of Marathon Asset Management, said: "Marathon takes pride in its contribution to the success of MAREX since our purchase of the company in 2006. During our ownership, MAREX has enjoyed substantial growth and is well positioned to succeed in further growing and strengthening its market position. As a firm, we are excited to partner with JRJ and we look forward to supporting their team and MAREX management as they lead the company into its next phase of expansion."

### **About MAREX**

MAREX is one of Europe's leading independent futures brokers. MAREX provides specialist execution, direct market access and clearing services for metals, energy, agriculture, financial futures and foreign exchange markets. MAREX's client base includes commodity producers and consumers, banks, brokers, CTA's, hedge funds and professional traders.

MAREX is a member of the London Metal Exchange, NYSE Liffe, ICE Futures and Eurex and offers access to all major exchanges in the US and Asia. MAREX is based in London with

regional offices in Geneva and New York. MAREX subsidiaries are regulated by the Financial Services Authority in the UK and the National Futures Association in the USA.

### **About JRJ Group**

JRJ, which is regulated by the FSA, is a specialist investment firm established in January 2009 by Jeremy Isaacs and Roger Nagioff. JRJ focuses exclusively on the financial services sector, providing capital, operational expertise and strategic guidance to enhance the value of its investments.

JRJ was advised by investment banking firm Rothschild and law firms Dechert LLP and The Dontzin Law Firm LLP. PricewaterhouseCoopers and Ernst & Young provided additional advice to JRJ.

### **About Marathon Asset Management, L.P.**

Marathon is a credit focused asset management company that was founded by Bruce Richards and Louis Hanover in 1998. The firm employs over 140 professionals and has its corporate headquarters at One Bryant Park, New York, New York. Marathon is a Registered Investment Adviser with the Securities and Exchange Commission. For more information, visit the company's web site at [www.marathonfund.com](http://www.marathonfund.com).

Marathon was advised by investment banking firm Deutsche Bank and law firm Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

### **Enquiries**

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