

Press release

Amsterdam, 1 October 2009

Fortis Bank Nederland restarts its Agri Commodity Brokerage

Fortis Bank Nederland is delighted to announce the re-establishment of an agri-commodities brokerage desk on 1 November 2009.

For Fortis Bank Nederland this is another step in the re-establishment of its global agricultural commodities platform, after the split up of the several Fortis entities in October 2008.

The Fortis Bank Nederland's Agri-Commodities brokerage desk, to be headed by Jonathan Parkman, will trade futures and options in cocoa, coffee, and sugar markets. To improve the service provided to its global customers, Fortis Bank Nederland has hired seven highly experienced staff. This new desk is part of the Energy, Commodities & Transportation business unit.

"This is a significant steps in the roll-out of our activities on a global scale. The new team will strengthen our client servicing capabilities", says Rick Torken, Managing Director and Global Head ECT-Agricultural Commodities.

Earlier Fortis Bank Nederland announced the return of Fortis Clearing Americas which means that with the return of the Agricultural Commodities Brokerage activities and the re-establishment of its international branch network, Fortis Bank Nederland will again be able to offer its clients Agricultural Commodities Financing, Brokerage and Clearing all in one house.

Through its Icestar entity Fortis Bank Nederland is already one of the leading providers of Ownership Based Financing in the agricultural commodities area which is also complimentary to our financing, brokerage and clearing activities.

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Fortis Bank Nederland

Fortis Bank Nederland offers a comprehensive package of products and services to private, corporate and (alternative) institutional clients. The broad services vary from consumer finance and credit cards to factoring, trust, corporate, energy, commodities and shipping finance, transaction banking, clearing, custody and fund services, investment banking and financial markets services.

Energy, Commodities & Transportation is a business line within Fortis Bank Nederland's Merchant Banking entity. Merchant Banking provides bespoke financial solutions to corporate and institutional clients active in the Netherlands and abroad. We offer a broad spectrum of banking services, including

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cash and treasury management, debt, equity and structured finance, trading and financial risk hedging, financial advisory, factoring and structuring. Besides, we are a top player in fund administration, global custody, securities lending and clearing services. Energy, Commodities & Transportation serves a wide range of customers and prospects in the energy, commodities and transportation industries. Our extensive market knowledge have made us leaders in these industries.

Energy is engaged in offshore oil and gas services, oil and gas, power and utilities, renewables (wind and solar energy) and carbon banking. Fortis Groenbank in Utrecht is a separate legal entity within Energy, providing green financing to companies that invest in sustainable projects in the Netherlands. Commodities finances the physical flow of agri, metals, steel and energy products, from the pre-production stage through to storage & delivery. The Transportation arm offers structured and innovative financing solutions to companies active in deep-sea shipping, container transport and the aviation sector.

Principle Finance is responsible for all direct investment activities (where Fortis Bank Nederland acts as Principal) in the Energy, Commodities & Trading sectors. Principle Finance acquires (portfolios of) assets at attractive valuations, provides subordinated debt or preferred equity with upside sharing and invest selectively in companies or projects of core clients of the bank, oftentimes on the basis of tangible collateral and diversified cash-flows.