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PRESS RELEASE

SEB joins Identrus' global trust infrastructure for B2B e-commerce

SEB, the leading Scandinavian financial group today joined Identrus' global Internetwork of trust, giving its corporate customers a way to expand their companies and manage their risks as they conduct business-to-business Internet commerce. SEB's corporate customers will use the Identrus infrastructure to conclusively identify one another through their financial institution, ensure their communications are secure, and create an indisputable record of their transactions.

“With these capabilities our corporate customers can conduct Internet business, opening new markets around the world and lowering transaction costs. This is an important milestone in our Nordic B2B e-commerce strategy. It fits well into other strategic initiatives such as the Nordic Commerce Exchange, an on-line market place, together with Ericsson and b-business partners*, said Head of SEB e-banking Johan H Larson.

“SEB realises it's not enough for its corporate customers to simply move their businesses to the Web,” said Identrus President and CEO Guy S. Tallent. “To make the most of their B2B opportunities, SEB will now securely identify their customers and vendors, manage the related risks, and document every communication on a global basis. Identrus is the only way to achieve this level of identity assurance.”

Identrus, founded in April 1999, is the world's leading provider of identity trust for global business-to-business Internet commerce. The company is dedicated to creating a worldwide network of trusted financial institutions that certify corporate customers as trusted trading partners on the Internet. Identrus members represent more than 133 countries and more than 10 million business relationships.

The SEB Group is a financial institution focused on e-banking, savings and growth companies. SEB is one of the largest financial groups in Scandinavia, with SEK 918 billion in funds under management and total assets of SEK 1 140 billion (30 June, 2000). The Group has approximately 20,000 employees and is represented in some 20 countries around the world. SEB has today approximately 630 retail and private banking branches, mainly in Sweden, Germany and the Baltic region and 620,000 e-banking customers in five countries.

** b-business partners is one of the largest venture capital companies in Europe with a capitabase of approximately EUR 1 billion.*

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