

MNB Maizels merger completed

The merger between Maizels, Westerberg & Co. and MeritaNordbanken Corporate and Structured Finance has been completed.

The new firm, MNB Maizels, is an independent new leading investment bank with special competence in financial advisory services in the Nordic Baltic Region. It is owned by MeritaNordbanken.

Presentation of MNB Maizels is enclosed.

Further information:

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MeritaNordbanken, the leading bank group in the Nordic region, provides a broad spectrum of financial products and services to more than 6.5 million private individuals and 400,000 companies and institutions. The Group's service network comprises some 700 branch offices in Finland and Sweden, over 1,000 Swedish post offices and a wide range of effective telephone and Internet banking facilities. More than a million customers use the Group's electronic banking services. Household savings under management total almost EUR 45 billion. Outside the Nordic region, the Group has a presence in 19 countries. The two holding companies, Merita Plc and Nordbanken Holding AB (publ), are listed in Helsinki and Stockholm, respectively.

MNB MAIZELS

New leading Nordic Investment Banking firm created

Merita Nordbanken and Maizels, Westerberg & Co. have completed the merger of their investment banking businesses. The new firm, named MNB Maizels immediately occupies leading market positions in a number of businesses and markets.

The trading names of Maizels, Westerberg & Co., Nordbanken Structured & Corporate Finance and Merita Corporate Finance have been changed to MNB Maizels. The new trading name has been adopted from today.

MNB Maizels is wholly owned by Merita Nordbanken. The firm will be run as an independent advisory-driven investment bank and will be incorporated through separate legal entities (MNB Maizels AB, MNB Maizels Oy and MNB Maizels Ltd).

A board of directors has been formed, the chairman of which is Krister Ahlström with the other directors including Bernt Magnusson, Markku Pohjola and Sten Westerberg.

MNB Maizels employs over 70 professionals and occupy offices independent from MeritaNordbanken in London, Stockholm and Helsinki. The firm will be led by Björn Carlsson from MeritaNordbanken, Mark Florman from Maizels, Westerberg & Co. and Petri Siponen from Merita Corporate Finance.

MNB Maizels particular focus will be on providing the governments, corporations and investors of Northern Europe, with quality advice in mergers & acquisitions as well as in equity and debt corporate finance.

In a joint statement, Björn Carlsson and Mark Florman said "We have created a leading advisory house for Northern Europe. This merger marks the creation of a strong new brand for corporate finance and, with our combined track records, we already enjoy leading market positions in corporate finance advice, mergers & acquisitions, equities and structured debt. Our clients will benefit from the best independent advice available."

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