

KGS-Alpha Capital Markets Adds CMBS Trading Team and Chief Strategist

NEW YORK, NY, Nov 07, 2011 (MARKETWIRE via COMTEX) -- KGS-Alpha Capital Markets, L.P. is pleased to announce expanded service offerings to its institutional investor base. Within the past month, the Firm has grown its commercial mortgage backed securities (CMBS) trading team with the addition of Jeff Lewis, Kyle Wichser and Andrew Noonan. The Firm has also introduced chief strategist Kamal Abdullah.

Lewis, who leads the CMBS team, worked for 17 years at Salomon Brothers/Citigroup and then headed the CMBS trading effort at Barclays Capital, ICP Capital and most recently Citadel Securities. Wichser and Noonan have joined Lewis on the trading desk. Wichser, a Bear Stearns alumnus, traded secondary CMBS with Lewis at ICP Capital and Citadel Securities. Noonan specializes in structuring and pricing CMBS loans and previously worked at GE Capital, Eurohypo and Citadel Securities.

Lewis expressed confidence in the ability of the team to bring added value to the Firm's institutional mortgage platform: "We are enthusiastic to join an entrepreneurial and experienced group of mortgage professionals with talented leadership and significant investment capital. The Firm is well positioned to participate in today's challenging CMBS market and to provide trading diversification and liquidity for our customer base."

Abdullah brings to the Firm over 17 years of research, trading, and client-focused experience across a spectrum of fixed-income sectors. He is charged with building a first-class strategy team to serve the Firm's institutional customer base. Prior to joining the Firm, Abdullah was head of RMBS and CMBS research at Citadel Securities. He began his financial career at Salomon Brothers and subsequently spent ten years at Lehman Brothers where he traded mortgages and was active in mortgage research. Kamal then joined Merrill Lynch where he served four years as a client-facing strategist.

KGS-Alpha CEO Levent Kahraman said: "We are excited to welcome our newest team of traders and our first strategist, which further enhances our ability to provide clients with the leading-edge products and services they need to evolve and succeed today and in the future." He added: "The CMBS team and strategist join the growing number of skilled individuals -- more than 80 people in just over a year -- who have joined together to offer the unique KGS-Alpha blend of client service, financial innovation and market liquidity."

Dan Goldman, KGS-Alpha President, said: "Virtually no new market participant offers our level of sophistication and range of services. With our expanded reach across the country and across markets -- and the growth in people, products and services -- KGS-Alpha is clearly positioned to build our market-driven, value-based solutions for institutional clients."

About KGS-Alpha Capital Markets, L.P.

KGS-Alpha was established in 2010 and has offices in New York, Boston, San Francisco, Boca Raton, Chicago, Reston, and St. Louis. KGS-Alpha has also raised \$150 million in two rounds of equity financing, most recently a \$75 million investment led by an affiliate of Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan (HOOPP), one of Canada's largest and most successful pension plans, with over \$30 billion in net assets.

Co-founder and CEO Levent Kahraman started his trading career and worked with Salomon Brothers for eight years prior to joining Barclays Capital, where he devoted five years to building a leading-edge mortgage-backed securities business. Co-founder and President Dan Goldman brings a wealth of industry experience to KGS-Alpha Capital Markets, L.P. Dan Goldman was with Salomon Brothers/Citigroup for 25 years as head of North American fixed income sales and co-head of U.S. rates. For more information about KGS-Alpha, visit www.kgsalpha.com.

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