



**08:38 01Jun2007 DJN-DJ ACP Capital Enters Strategic Investment
DJ ACP Capital Enters Strategic Investment**

Edited Press Release

LONDON (Dow Jones)--ACP Capital Limited, a merchant bank specializing in the provision of integrated finance and asset management services for the European small and medium sized enterprise ("SME") markets, Friday announced its participation as a strategic investor through a scheduled capital increase in GCI Management AG ("GCI").

GCI is a Deutsche Borse-listed private equity company focused on the SME sector in the German-speaking part of Europe.

Alongside its investment activities, GCI also operates a consultancy business in the areas of strategy, management and financing.

GCI intends to increase its existing issued share capital of 8,813,934 shares by issuing 3,299,100 new shares. ACP Capital has agreed to acquire 2,401,805 of these new shares at EUR8.00 each.

The shareholding represents 19.83% of GCI's enlarged issued share capital following the capital increase. The transaction is expected to be effective following the approval of GCI shareholders at its Annual General Meeting in July 2007.

Together, ACP Capital and GCI intend to continue to identify complementary benefits from their strategic alignment in the areas of co-investment, debt financing and other business.

The acquisition is expected to cement a long-term relationship, with GCI becoming ACP Capital's key strategic partner for its merchant banking strategy in Germany. The partnership fulfills a key strategic objective for ACP Capital in Europe's largest economy of building a pan-European merchant banking and asset management platform for SMEs in the core markets of Germany, Italy, France, and the U.K.

GCI intends to continue to manage its existing assets and funds under management with future growth focused on later-stage private equity and turnaround investment opportunities, primarily in Germany. ACP Capital aims to provide a series of financing products to GCI's existing and future investment portfolio that would enable GCI to expand its financial product ranges in areas such as senior debt, and senior and junior mezzanine.

The partnership is also expected to enable GCI to increase overall transaction sizes leading to possibilities of investing in majority stakes and buyouts with longer time horizons.

ACP Capital anticipates that the strategic relationship with GCI will generate a range of new investment opportunities.

As a result of a potential co-investment agreement, ACP Capital will be granted rights to co-invest in the equity of GCI transactions on the same terms as GCI, enabling potential deal flow for ACP Strategic Equity (a strategic equity holding vehicle anticipated to be launched by the end of 2007).

Additionally, ACP Capital will be the preferred debt funding partner for GCI transactions, resulting in potential opportunities for senior debt underwriting and mezzanine lending opportunities for ACP Mezzanine Limited, the AIM-listed sub-investment grade lender managed by ACP Capital.

Other benefits for ACP Capital arising from the acquisition of the strategic shareholding include leasing business opportunities throughout Europe and increased market presence in Germany, taking the Company to the next level in its development following the establishment of an associated office in Munich.