

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL 7:00AM THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**NUMIS - POTENTIAL DISPOSAL OF ITS INTEREST IN COMDIRECT LTD**

Numis Corporation plc (“Numis”) announces that it has entered into a contingent agreement to sell its 26.3% interest in comdirect Ltd. Together with other shareholders in Execution Services Group Limited (“ESGL”), the holding company of comdirect Ltd., Numis has entered into an arrangement of put and call options in respect of their interest in ESGL with Boursorama SA, France’s largest online retail broker.

The put and call options can be exercised over the period 1 August 2005 to 30 September 2005 and, if exercised, would give Boursorama SA control over ESGL. The ESGL shareholders have granted Boursorama SA a call option which if exercised would result in the sale of ESGL in August this year. If Boursorama SA have not exercised their call option by 1 September 2005, the ESGL institutional shareholders, including Numis, each have an option to sell the entire issued share capital of ESGL to Boursorama SA. This put option is exercisable until 30 September 2005. The exercise of the option by either party will be contingent on, inter alia, the FSA approving the acquisition of ESGL by Boursorama SA.

In the event of either option being exercised, Numis would receive approximately £14.0 million in cash, thereby realising an estimated pretax profit of £8.5 million less the share of profits equity-accounted for by Numis arising in the period until the exercise of the option. The current book value of Numis holding in ESGL is £4.5 million. Any proceeds from the disposal would be used in the development of Numis’ core business.

ESGL has no assets other than its holdings in comdirect Ltd, which is an online retail brokerage. Numis has a 26.3% interest in the ordinary share capital of ESGL. Numis’ share of pretax profits of ESGL for the six months to 31 March 2005 was £228,000.

Numis and comdirect Ltd both expect to continue their mutually profitable trading relationship, with Numis continuing to provide its Retail Service Provider (RSP) facilities to comdirect Ltd.

**Notes to Editors:**

comdirect is the UK’s second largest on-line stockbroker and the UK’s third largest retail stockbroker by share trading volumes and the market leader in covered warrants.

Currently 22 retail brokers trade with Numis, taking advantage of its expanding RSP offering.

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