

HBG acquires strategic stake in listed bank

Leading PE firm becomes largest shareholder in London listed EIIB

London May 5, 2011 – HBG Holdings (“HBG”), a leading UK private equity firm serving high net worth private and institutional clients in the Arabian Gulf, has today announced its acquisition of a strategic stake in European Islamic Investment Bank Plc (“EIIB”) - listed on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange.

Headquartered in London, EIIB is the first independent Sharia compliant investment bank authorized by the United Kingdom Financial Services Authority. EIIB provides a range of Sharia compliant investment banking activities including, treasury and capital markets, structured trade finance, private equity, corporate advisory and asset management.

Commenting on the acquisition, Michael Toxvaerd, Chief Investment Officer of HBG said, “The strategic stake in EIIB is in keeping with our objective of investing in undervalued AIM listed companies. We believe there is significant upside potential in this business and we hope to play an active role in unlocking value.”

HBG has successfully raised significant capital from Gulf investors for its AIM strategy and is in advanced stages of finalizing additional investments in several listed companies.

- Ends -

Notes:

HBG Holdings (“HBG”) is a UK private equity investor and fund management business, serving high net worth private and institutional clients in the Gulf Cooperation Council (“GCC”) countries.

HBG generates returns from four business lines: (1) quoted equity, (2) unquoted equity, (3) real estate and (4) strategic advisory.

The HBG team has vast knowledge of the GCC region and its investors accumulated over many decades of operating businesses and playing a leading role in its landmark M&A transactions.

Since its establishment in 2004, the firm has developed a track record of performance by co-investing with its clients across its business lines and leveraging the firm’s expertise in special situations, PIPEs and small cap.

The success of HBG is underpinned by its diverse investor base of leading private investors, family offices and institutional investors from the six Gulf Co-operation Council countries.

HBG is licensed by the UK Financial Services Authority and is a member of the British Venture Capital Association and MENA Private Equity Association.

For further information about HBG please visit www.hbgholdings.com.