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**BACKED BY DELL ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY, MERLIN SECURITIES
FULFILLS CLIENTS' NEED FOR CUSTOMIZATION AND SPEED**

Prime Broker Standardizes on Dell to Slash Reporting Production Cycles

ROUND ROCK, Texas, Oct. 11, 2005 — Merlin Securities, a broker-dealer specializing in prime brokerage, is relying on Dell enterprise products to expedite portfolio analysis and reporting for some of the world's most sophisticated hedge funds. Other companies needing speed, reliability and accuracy when processing and analyzing critical company data can apply Merlin's industry-standard open source IT strategy to help build more effective businesses.

Dell PowerEdge™ servers help Merlin create hundreds of thousands of real-time portfolio reports, breaking new ground for improved reporting processes and eliminating up to 10 hours of cycles typical of other prime brokerages.

“Prime brokerages have historically relied on time-consuming batch reporting procedures at the end of the day, returning information before the market opening the next day,” said Amr Mohamed, chief technology officer at Merlin Securities. “We wanted to provide a deeper level of analysis and make the information available in a matter of seconds. Building our enterprise on servers and software from Dell helps us do that.”

Founded in 2004, Merlin literally built its business around Dell computer systems. Now its multiple information technology environments have standardized on Dell PowerEdge servers and Dell OpenManage server management software to help maximize the benefits of Dell's strategic partnerships with Red Hat, EMC and Oracle. Merlin's flagship application product,

MerlinSHARP, relies on a high-performance computing cluster of Dell PowerEdge servers running Red Hat Linux for reporting across multiple fund managers, traders and portfolios. Merlin Securities also stores critical portfolio data in an Oracle 10g database running on a Dell-Linux platform. The company helps ensure client data security through an EMC storage area network from Dell with distributed environments for recovery of sensitive financial portfolio data in the event of a disaster.

“Financial services companies compete in a demanding marketplace and they understand the value of a reliable, high-performance infrastructure,” said Bill Rodrigues, vice president of Corporate Business Group, Dell Americas. “Merlin Securities exemplifies how building a company on a scalable, industry-standard platform from Dell can help create a secure foundation for customer satisfaction and business success.”

About Merlin Securities

Merlin Securities is a member of NASD and SIPC with offices in New York and San Francisco. For more information about Merlin and its products and services, visit www.merlinsecurities.com.

About Dell

Dell Inc. (NASDAQ: DELL) is a trusted and diversified information-technology supplier and partner, and sells a comprehensive portfolio of products and services directly to customers worldwide. Dell, recognized by Fortune magazine as America's most admired company and No. 3 globally, designs, builds and delivers innovative, tailored systems that provide customers with exceptional value. Company revenue for the last four quarters was \$52.8 billion. For more information about Dell and its products and services, visit www.dell.com.

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