



NEWS RELEASE

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Clarksons PLC and SynchroNet Marine, Inc. Announce Joint Venture Global Slot Network (GSN) to Facilitate On-line Trading of Container & Slot Capacity

Sacramento, CA – August 29, 2006 – Clarksons PLC, in partnership with SynchroNet Marine, Inc., the world's leading provider of technology based container interchange services, is pleased to announce the formation of a new joint venture, Global Slot Network Ltd, the purpose of which will be to facilitate the trading of container freight and slot capacity on-line. The new company, headquartered in London, will have representative offices in Asia and US, with further expansion envisaged.

The new Business to Business self service platform will enable a full spectrum of industry participants to trade (current and forward) capacity and cargo opportunities via a genuinely neutral site in a secure environment. This multi-carrier, multi-shipper and multi-forwarder exchange is designed specifically for incremental cargo and capacity opportunities including trading of 'ad hoc' slots for full (or empty) containers amongst carriers and between deep sea, short sea carriers and leasing companies. In addition to the trading platform, the site will also provide registered users with relevant container industry related research and data.

"This development marks a continuation of our policy to become a truly diversified shipping services group," commented Clarksons' CEO Richard Fulford-Smith. "It should also bring greater transparency to an industry which requires modernising."

"We are pleased that SynchroNet Marine's proven technology will be the platform supporting this important maritime industry innovation," said SynchroNet CEO and Director of GSN, Will Middleton. "This platform effectively provides a new marketing channel for participants to expand commercial opportunities."

The platform is currently undergoing rigorous testing and enhancement in consultation with a panel from within the industry, and will be ready for open registration (at no cost to participants) from early September 2006 (www.globalslotnetwork.com) and live trading as early as November 2006.

About Clarksons PLC:

Founded in 1852, The Clarksons PLC Group ("Clarksons") has grown into one of the world's largest shipping services groups, employing over 500 people worldwide. As well as its core shipbroking activities, the group has diversified into a wider range of shipping related activities. These include broader based financial and freight services, derivatives broking and a shipping hedge fund. It also has a world renowned shipping research department. As well as its London headquarters, the group has offices in many of the world's major shipping centres including Athens, Paris, Genoa, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore, Auckland, Sydney, Melbourne, Houston, Dubai, San Francisco and Johannesburg.

About SynchroNet Marine, Inc.

Founded in 1996, SynchroNet dramatically reduces empty container repositioning costs for ocean carriers and leasing companies around the world. The company's proprietary technology identifies opportunities to 'match' container equipment supply to demand, reducing 'empty move' costs and enabling prompt supply in high demand markets. The company assures global coverage with local expertise and service, with offices in Singapore, Shanghai, Seoul, Rotterdam and Rio de Janeiro as well as Chicago, Virginia Beach and Sacramento (HQ) in the USA. For more information, go to www.synchronetmarine.com.

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