



ISE Trades 250 Millionth Options Contract Strengthens Position As Second Largest US Options Exchange

NEW YORK, February 21, 2003 –The International Securities Exchange (ISE) traded its 250 millionth options contract on Thursday, shortly after implementing two significant market place enhancements.

The establishment of ISE's latest trading volume milestone follows the introduction of *ISEspreads* and the “one size fits all” trading initiative. *ISEspreads*, which was introduced on February 7, allows ISE members to automatically execute multiple-part trades, such as spreads, straddles, strangles, and butterflies, against the combination order book and against bids and offers posted in ISE's regular order book. “One size fits all,” which was implemented January 22, enables market makers and firms to automatically execute their orders against the full size of ISE's displayed quote -- something that was historically only available to customers in the options market.

“ISE was founded on the principle of growth through innovation. We are gratified that our innovations continue to be well received and continue to satisfy customer needs,” said David Krell, ISE's president and CEO.

At the end of January, ISE's overall trading volume made it the second largest of the five US options exchanges.

ISE's trading volume milestones include:

February 20, 2003: 250 million contracts traded
October 29, 2002: 200 million contracts traded
July 17, 2002: 150 million contracts
March 14, 2002: 100 million contracts traded
January 8, 2002: 75 million contracts traded
May 29, 2001: 25 million contracts traded
August 8, 2000: 1 million contracts traded
May 26, 2000: First contract traded, SBC Communications Inc., October 45 call, 20 lot

ISE Background

ISE, which pioneered electronic options trading in the US, is the second largest US options exchange.

ISE is the only fully-electronic U.S. options exchange, the first registered securities exchange approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission since 1973, and the first and only electronic options exchange in the global marketplace that has successfully integrated the intrinsic efficiencies of electronic trading with auction market principles.

ISE lists 533 options classes, whose aggregate volume represents more than 90% of the industry's total equity options volume. For more information about ISE, its products and its technology, visit www.iseoptions.com.

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