

Collins Stewart expands Technology Research expertise Ashok Kumar is appointed as Senior Research Analyst

New York, NY – September 2, 2008 – Collins Stewart, a leading independent investment bank, today announced the appointment of Ashok Kumar as a senior research analyst. Kumar is a highly respected, seasoned analyst with experience following major sectors of the technology universe and his coverage will strengthen the firm's highly regarded technology research department.

"The addition of Ashok Kumar to our team reinforces Collins Stewart's commitment to hiring the industry's top talent and providing superior research capabilities," said Shawn McLoughlin, CEO and President of Collins Stewart's North American operations. "We are very pleased to bring Ashok on board to further broaden the depth and breadth of our significant expertise in technology research."

Kumar joins Collins Stewart in San Francisco from CRT Capital Group, where he covered semiconductors, semiconductor equipment, enterprise hardware and storage. He brings 23 years of technology and research experience to the firm, including prior research roles at Raymond James, Piper Jaffray, Southcoast Capital and Prudential Securities. Kumar held previous positions at Intel Corporation, as a manager in the Microprocessor Marketing and Business Planning Group; General Dynamics, as a project engineer in the Satellite Communications Group; and KPMG Peat Marwick, where he analyzed acquisition and partnership strategies in the semiconductor sector.

Kumar holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Indian Institute of Technology in Madras, India. He earned a master's degree in electrical engineering at Purdue University in Lafayette, IN and a master's degree in business administration at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

About Collins Stewart plc

Collins Stewart plc is a leading independent investment banking group with offices in 11 geographies worldwide including; London, New York, Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Dublin, Paris, Geneva, Singapore, Tel Aviv, and Mumbai.

With over 700 employees, the Group is organised around four operational divisions; advisory, capital markets, securities and wealth management. All are serviced by Collins Stewart's unique research tool, Quest™.

Collins Stewart is the top fundraiser on London's Alternative Investment Market (AIM), raising £1.3 billion in 2007. The Group's Wealth Management division manages and advises in excess of £4 billion of assets and is the largest investment manager and stockbroker in the Channel Islands. Through its advisory division, Collins Stewart is one of the leading independent corporate finance firms in Europe.

www.collinsstewart.com

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