



February 9, 2009

FIRST Global Program Ceasing Operations on March 1, 2009

After a lengthy and costly period of development and nearly two years of full scale operations, the FIRST Global Program (“FGP”) has failed to fulfill its stated objective of helping, in any meaningful way, to alleviate the problem faced by investors residing outside the United States and Canada trying to obtain a Medallion Signature Guarantee (“MSG”). Designed to assist overseas investors by providing an alternative – in the form of an insurance policy – to replace the MSG necessary to transfer a security in the U.S. and Canada, FGP’s failure stems principally from the following:

1. Investors do not appreciate the inherent risks involved in the transfer process;
2. Investors, therefore, object to paying the insurance and processing fees;
3. Investors find the application process tedious; and,
4. Investors, ultimately, find alternative ways to negotiate their items.

Accordingly, FGP will discontinue all operations effective March 1, 2009. Inquiries received by FGP on and after March 1st will be referred to the Issuer or Transfer Agent, as appropriate. To minimize inconvenience, Issuers and Transfer Agents should eliminate all references to FGP in their investor communications.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.