

GLOBAL FINANCE ANNOUNCES RUSSIA'S BEST BANKS AND COMPANIES 2008

NEW YORK, April 2, 2008 —*Global Finance* magazine has released its annual rankings of the “Best Banks and Companies in Russia” covering a range of sectors. The rankings will be published in an exclusive survey in the June 2008 issue. The winners will be honored at an awards ceremony in London on April 21st.

Global Finance editors – with input from industry analysts, corporate reports and other expert sources — selected the best banks and companies on a variety of criteria, both objective and subjective. Factors considered included market share, profitability, evidence of long-term strategy, management quality and commitment to improvement in corporate governance.

“Russian banks and companies had a remarkable year in

2007,” says *Global Finance* publisher, Joseph D. Giarraputo. “And there’s every evidence that may continue in 2008. While commodity prices’ strength clearly played a large part in the robustness of the Russian economy, it was the unmistakable signs of movement towards real corporate restructuring that was so heartening, particularly in relation to a growing commitment to good corporate governance.”

Global Finance, which celebrates its 21st year of publishing in 2008, has 50,000 subscribers in 158 countries. This audience includes chairmen, presidents, CEOs, CFOs, treasurers, and other financial officers responsible for making investments and strategic business decisions for global companies and financial institutions. *Global Finance* also targets the 8,000 key portfolio investors who control over 80% of all assets under professional management.

Best Russian Banks:

Domestic	Alfa Bank
Foreign	Citi
Regional	UralSib
Investment	Renaissance Capital
Commercial	Sberbank
Consumer	Citi
Foreign Exchange	VTB
Domestic Trade Finance	Alfa Bank
International Trade Finance	Deutsche Bank
Energy & Commodity Finance	Societe Generale Vostok
Fixed Income Sales & Distribution	UniCredit Group
Syndicated Loans	BNP Paribas
Equity Research	Alfa Bank
Domestic Bond Research	MDM Bank
Eurobonds Research	Trust Investment Bank
Book Runner Primary Equities	Deutsche Bank
International M&A Arranger	Merrill Lynch
Asset Manager	Troika Dialog

Best Russian Companies:

Beverages	- Baltika
Consumer	- Pharmacy Chain 36.6
Gas	- Gazprom
Media	- RBC
Non-Ferrous Metals and Mining	- RusAl
Oil	- Rosneft
Steel	- SeverStal
Telecom	- COMSTAR-United TeleSystems
Utilities	- Rosvodokanal