

Transaction Announcement

Curtis Securities advises Verlan Holdings, Inc. in connection with its sale to The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc. (NYSE: THG)

PHILADELPHIA, PA, March 17, 2008 – Curtis Securities, LLC, an investment banking firm specializing in middle market transactions, announced that its client, Verlan Holdings, Inc., (“Verlan”) was acquired by The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc. (“Hanover”) in a cash transaction.

Verlan, based in Silver Spring, MD, provides specialty commercial property, fire and allied lines insurance services throughout the U.S to small- and medium-sized companies with actual or perceived chemical processing risk.

Verlan sought an acquirer to provide liquidity for its shareholders and the resources and vision to support future growth opportunities. Curtis developed a program focused on identifying potential acquirers with the resources and philosophy to support the Company’s growth, efficiently managing a transaction process, and seeking the overall best transaction for the Company and its stakeholders.

Verlan received multiple indications of interest from strategic acquirers throughout the United States and Europe within two months of going to market.

Curtis Securities served as Verlan’s exclusive financial advisor in connection with this transaction, assisting in structuring and negotiating the terms of the transaction. Curtis also issued a fairness opinion to Verlan’s board of directors. Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP served as legal counsel to Verlan while Dykema Gossett PLLC served as legal counsel for The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc.

Curtis Financial Group, LLC is an investment banking firm that advises middle market companies on mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, raising capital, and provides fairness opinions, business valuations, and related corporate finance services. Our professionals have completed merger and acquisitions with over \$1.6 billion in transaction value, financing transactions of over \$1 billion, and over 150 fairness opinions and 1,500 valuations. According to SNL Securities, Curtis ranks 4th in the U.S. for financial services (banking and insurance) advisory assignments in the mid-Atlantic region since January 1, 2005.

For more information please contact:

Kevin J. Rudd, President, (215) 972-2351, kjrudd@curtisfinancial.com

Anthony A. Latini, Jr., Managing Director, (215) 972-2353, alatini@curtisfinancial.com

Paul M. Yeakel Jr., Vice President, (215) 972-2546, pyeakel@curtisfinancial.com

