

Somerville acquisition; a boost for travellers with complex medical histories

London 5 May 2008: Voyager, the specialist travel broker owned by independent underwriting and broking group Somerville Underwriting Holdings plc, has acquired its long term strategic partner CH Facilities (CHF) to boost its travel, accident and sickness and health capabilities.

Trading as Able2Travel, broker CHF, which was bought for an undisclosed sum, specialises in providing travel insurance to travellers with complex medical histories. The acquisition will immediately add £1.3m to Voyager's existing £12m gross written premiums. Overall, Somerville now manages in excess of £50m GWP.

The deal will add to and complement Voyager's existing comprehensive travel insurance offering. Prior to the acquisition Voyager arranged CHF's underwriting facilities for many years.

CHF will be merged with Voyager under director Jonathan Buttery. He said: "Following our long-standing relationship with this first class niche business, we are pleased to announce this has been taken one step further by welcoming CHF to become part of Voyager.

"Complex medical histories are a common exclusion for many travel insurers. Therefore great potential exists in making a product that can cater for these travellers more broadly available. A pre-existing medical condition was once seen as a barrier to overseas travel, however those with complex medical histories can now buy cover for almost any destination.

"CHF's acquisition by Somerville will enable us to further develop our highly skilled team and deliver an enhanced service for both intermediaries and the travelling public."

Established in 1996 and acquired by Somerville in September 2007, Guildford based Voyager is one of the UK's leading travel insurance specialists providing bespoke travel insurance schemes to insurance brokers and third party intermediaries. These include tour operators, travel agents, ferry companies and online insurance specialists. Its product offering spans the full range of travel insurance from single-trip, long stay and annual multi-trip to winter sports and European vehicle assistance.

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Notes to editors

Independent underwriting and broking group Somerville Holdings plc was formed 25 years ago. From a solo broking operation, the group has expanded both organically and through acquisitions to include HNW and home underwriting, wholesale and retail general insurance broking and IFA businesses.

Following the acquisition of specialist wholesale broker Voyager Insurance Services in September 2007 the group now manages in excess of £50m of gross written premium.

The businesses owned by Somerville Holding plc are:

Oak Underwriting plc	HNW household
Plum (home) Limited	Niche home
Voyager Insurance Services	Travel, Accident sickness and health
Azure Insurance Services Limited	Niche retail broker
Somerville Market Solutions Ltd	Lloyd's Broker
Somerville Financial Services Ltd	IFA