

NEWS FROM AVONDALE PARTNERS, LLC

For more information, contact:
Pat Shepherd, Sr. Managing Partner
pshepherd@avondalepartnersllc.com
(615) 467-3515

AVONDALE PARTNERS ESTABLISHES NEW OFFICE IN ST. LOUIS

Expands Research Coverage in Transportation, Industrial and Business Services Sectors

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (February 29, 2008) --- Avondale Partners, a national investment banking firm headquartered in Nashville, has expanded operations with the opening of its seventh location, a new equity research office in St. Louis, announced Pat Shepherd, senior managing partner.

Donald Broughton, Kristine Kubacki and Tim Willi, formerly with A.G. Edwards in St. Louis, have joined Avondale's equity research department as senior analysts and will lead the firm's new St. Louis office. Broughton will focus on the transportation and logistics space, Kubacki will cover manufacturing/ industrials companies and Willi will focus on information technology and the business services sector. With these most recent hires, Avondale now has 15 senior equity research analysts covering the health care; consumer & industrial; business services & government outsourcing; and media, telecom & technology sectors.

Avondale Partners will continue to add to its equity research capabilities which may result in its growing the number of office locations, according to Shepherd. "We are committed to attracting extremely talented professionals to our platform where ever those individuals may be. We see an opportunity to make St. Louis an important part of our growing equity research and investment banking franchise. We're pleased to add the expertise that Donald, Kristine and Tim bring to these coverage areas."

Prior to joining Avondale, Broughton was vice president, group leader and senior transportation analyst at A.G. Edwards for 12 years, covering trucking, airfreight, railroads and freight forwarders. Before that, he spent eight years in various distribution and operations management roles in the beverage industry, serving as distribution manager for the Dr. Pepper/Seven Up companies and chief operations officer of Bevmark Concepts.

Broughton has been recognized by The Wall Street Journal "Best on the Street" 2000 and 2006 surveys for his stock-picking performance in both the cargo and railroad industry groups. He was ranked by Zack's Investment Research in 2005 and StarMine in 2006 as a "Five-Star Analyst" (the highest ranking) based on the historical performance of his recommendations.

Broughton is known for his development of a value to density spectrum study of the tangible goods flow, and tracking of trucking bankruptcies. He has been a frequent guest on CNBC, CNN and the "Nightly Business Report," and he has been widely quoted by The Wall Street Journal, Investors Business Daily, Bloomberg, Forbes, Fortune, Money and transportation industry journals. He also has served as a guest lecturer at various universities and has been a regular speaker at many transportation industry conferences.

Broughton received his bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting from Southeast Missouri State University.

Kubacki covered the transportation and logistics industries as a senior associate analyst at A.G. Edwards. Previously, she was with Procter and Gamble for six years in operations management, process design and supply chain management.

Kubacki earned her MBA from Washington University in St. Louis and holds the Chartered Financial Analyst® designation. She also holds a B.S. in chemical engineering from Washington University in St. Louis and a B.S. in mathematics from Webster University in St. Louis.

Willi was vice president, group leader and IT & business services analyst at A.G. Edwards, where he headed a seven-person team covering the information technology sector with a focus on payments, payroll, financial technologies, outsourcing and business process outsourcing. He joined A.G. Edwards in 1994 as regional and community bank analyst. Before that, Willi was with Commerce Bancshares, an \$11 billion bank holding company located in Kansas, Missouri and Central Illinois.

The Wall Street Journal "Best on the Street" 2003 ranked Willi second out of 74 analysts for the business services industry. He has been quoted in The Wall Street Journal, Investors Business Daily, Business Week, Forbes and Fortune. Willi earned his B.S. in finance with a minor in macroeconomics from Bradley University in Peoria, Ill.

About Avondale Partners LLC

Avondale Partners, LLC is a leading, full-service institutional investment bank headquartered in Nashville, Tenn., with offices in Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco and St. Louis. The firm focuses on providing M&A advisory services, debt and equity underwriting, and private placements of bank debt, mezzanine finance and equity capital for its corporate finance clients. In addition, Avondale offers high quality equity research and sales and trading execution to institutional clients throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe as well as institutional asset management. Since its inception in 2001, Avondale Partners has executed more than 100 investment banking transactions and assignments for its clients exceeding \$9.7 billion in total value. More information on Avondale Partners can be found at its web site, www.avondalepartnersllc.com.