

Providence Set As Venue For Panel Discussion On Financing And Transaction Needs Of Middle Market Companies

Brooks, Houghton & Company to Host Event in Providence, R.I.

NEW YORK and PROVIDENCE, R.I., January 24, 2012 -- Brooks, Houghton & Company, a merchant bank serving the middle market and emerging growth companies, will be hosting a panel discussion on "Why the Middle Market Matters -- Insights into the Financing and Transaction Environment for Middle Market and Emerging Growth Companies" on January 30, 2012 at the University Club in Providence, Rhode Island.

Brooks, Houghton & Company has been serving middle market and emerging growth companies nationally and in the New England area for over 20 years, and has senior representatives based in Rhode Island. The firm has brought together a distinguished panel of financial and civic leaders that includes Gerald Houghton, president of Brooks, Houghton & Company; Chris Crosby, managing director of Nautic Partners; and Laurie White, president of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce. Brooks Houghton Director, Barbara Schoenfeld, will serve as the panel moderator.

According to a recent study by GE Capital and Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business (<http://www.nationalmiddlemarketsummit.com/>), "middle market firms have created \$3.84 trillion in the U.S. private sector GDP and now employ more than one-third of the U.S. work force."

The panel will focus on the challenges facing middle market companies, particularly in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts, in accessing growth and equity capital; acquisition and growth strategies; regulatory constraints; providing liquidity to business owners; and public/private initiatives for emerging growth companies.

"For Brooks Houghton, the middle-market represents the most attractive sector for investing growth capital and providing the strategic advisory and transactions services needed to help these companies achieve their greatest potential," said Gerald Houghton, president of Brooks, Houghton & Company. "A growing middle market sector is critical

to Southeastern New England's economic future, and through events like the January 30 panel discussion, we hope to identify new investment opportunities that can fuel this growth."

The event will begin at 5:30 pm and conclude two hours later; the University Club is located at 219 Benefit Street in Providence. Attendance is by invitation only, and information on the event can be obtained by contacting Barbara Schoenfeld at (401) 273-9876 or bschoenfeld@brookshoughton.com.

About Brooks, Houghton & Company

Founded in 1989, Brooks, Houghton & Company, Inc. (www.brookshoughton.com) is a well-established merchant bank that provides investment banking services and principal investments to middle-market and emerging growth companies. The firm is highly experienced in mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and corporate finance as well as principal investing through various funds managed by its senior personnel. The firm's broker/dealer, Brooks Houghton Securities Inc., is a registered member of FINRA and SIPC. Brooks, Houghton & Company is headquartered in New York City with a presence in Providence, R.I., Buffalo, N.Y., Stamford, Conn., and Atlanta, Georgia.

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