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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TELEKURS (USA) AND BEAR STEARNS PRICINGDIRECT® HOST
CONFERENCE ON SECURITIES VALUATION ISSUES**

NEW YORK – February 7, 2006 – Telekurs Financial and Bear Stearns Pricing Direct®^[1] Inc. (“PricingDirect”) will host a one-day conference on “Issues in Securities Valuation” on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 9:00 a.m. EST in New York.

The event will feature keynote addresses by Steve Forbes, President & Chief Operating Officer, Forbes, Inc. and Doug Shulman, President – Market, Services & Information, NASD.

Other sessions and topics include:

- Corporate Governance & Regulatory Issues post Sarbanes-Oxley
- Discussion of 3:00 p.m. vs. 4:00 p.m. valuation issues
- Technology in Financial Engineering
- Credit Default and Interest Rate Swaps Pricing
- Evaluation of Hard-to-Price securities
- Global Security Pricing Issues

This conference is being held at the Bear Stearns worldwide headquarters, second floor auditorium, at 383 Madison Ave. (entrance at 46th Street and Vanderbilt Avenue) in New York. Admission is complimentary for front-, mid- and back-office professionals. Please visit the conference website at <http://www.bearstearns.com/conferences/pricingdirect2006> to register.

Telekurs (USA) Inc. recently incorporated PricingDirect’s fixed income securities daily pricing data into its Valordata Feed™, an especially rich source of global securities master data and corporate actions information. These include ARMs, ABS, CMOs, CMBS, Emerging Market securities, High Yield and Investment Grade Corporate securities, SBA Pools, and U.S. Treasury securities.

PricingDirect recently announced the availability of 4:00 p.m. valuations of domestic taxable fixed income securities and swaps. This service, the first in the industry, will give investors evaluation information that will coincide with the close of the New York Stock Exchange and take into account credit events known to Pricing Direct as well as yield

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curve changes. Last year, PricingDirect expanded its databases to include valuations for sophisticated and actively traded interest rate swap and credit default swap contracts. The company uses a combination of market-calibrated analytics and information about current market conditions—available only from market participants—to provide timely and accurate valuations.

About Telekurs Financial

Telekurs Financial is a company in the Telekurs Group, which operates in the fields of financial information, payment transactions and IT services. As a leader in its field, Telekurs Financial specializes in the procurement, processing and distribution of international financial information for investment advisory services, portfolio management, financial analysis and securities administration.

A global network of local financial market specialists procures real-time stock exchange information straight from the leading financial centres. Containing over 2.5 million financial instruments, the database of structured, encoded securities information maintained by Telekurs Financial and its fifteen representative offices abroad is unparalleled throughout the world in terms of both depth and data coverage.

As the official numbering agency for Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein, Telekurs Financial is responsible for allocating Swiss security (Valor) numbers. It is a founding member of the Association of National Numbering Agencies (ANNA) and leads the way in introducing standards aimed at simplifying trading and securities administration.

For more information, visit www.telekurs-financial.com.

Telekurs (USA) Inc. is one of 18 Telekurs Financial offices located in 14 major financial centers around the world, and is one of the company's regional data collection centers that is responsible for direct sourcing of descriptive and market data from 220 global exchanges, 550 third-party contributors and a number of news agencies. With such far-reaching coverage of global markets consolidated into a single, normalized data feed, Telekurs Financial offers one of the most comprehensive data feeds available today.

For more information, visit www.tkusa.com.

About PricingDirect

PricingDirect is an affiliate of Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc., a leading global investment banking, securities trading and brokerage firm. PricingDirect is a comprehensive securities evaluation service that supplies daily pricing data on more than one million U.S. taxable fixed income securities. Institutional clients include a wide range of mutual funds, broker-dealers, risk managers, clearance services, insurance companies, fund accounting administrators, banks, trust companies and investment managers.

For more information, visit www.pricing-direct.com