

Sesame Bankhall Group Ltd

Registered Office: Pixham End, Dorking, Surrey RH14 1QA

Registered in England No. 3573352

www.sesamebankhall.co.uk

PRESS RELEASE

Sesame Bankhall Group selects Australian wealth management technology expert IRESS to power client & practice management system

- *2012 initial roll out to Sesame Restricted Advice and Investment Solutions propositions*
- *IRESS' XPLAN platform selected due to extensive product flexibility and capability*

Sesame Bankhall Group announces plans to launch a client and practice management system in 2012. The platform, delivered by a newly created UK subsidiary of leading Australian financial services technology provider IRESS, will initially support the launch of the Sesame Bankhall Group Restricted Advice and Investment Solutions propositions, before being rolled out to the wider Group.

IRESS is a global technology company that has proven solutions for financial planning, client and practice management in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Asia, and is the market leader in these territories. IRESS will implement its XPLAN product suite which will be configured specifically for the needs of Sesame Bankhall advisers. XPLAN was selected based on its extensive configuration capability, core product features, and the ability to provide a single technology platform supporting the Group across its various business propositions.

Commenting on the partnership, **George Higginson, Sesame Bankhall Group Chief Executive Officer, says:** "If we really want to help advisers maximise efficiencies and save money we need to make the most of technology. Our practice management solution will cover off the normal sales process from the fact find and formulating advice through to recommendation letters. The client management system, which can be used independently or alongside the sales process, can populate fact finds in advance as well as take in the valuations that will help with reports for clients and aide the review process. This will in turn help advisers to justify remuneration post RDR.

"The system has been designed to link across the various core parts of the business advisers need. It will be a complete technology solution for the future; working from a single client database with the option of a client portal for advisers to use to service their clients. It will be intuitive and will help advisers to build the right processes according to a client's needs. In short it will be a complete technology solution for the future.

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“This is IRESS’ first project in the UK and it incorporates AT8, who are a well known specialist IT consultancy firm that will be bringing their industry expertise and experience to this new development. The net result for Sesame Bankhall advisers will be even greater efficiencies for their business and the opportunity to enhance the level of service they give their clients.”

Andrew Walsh, IRESS CEO comments: “The UK represents a strategic opportunity for IRESS and we are really pleased and excited to have been selected by the Sesame Bankhall Group to be its partner to deliver this technology. We are delighted to be working with SBG to help change the face of UK adviser software.”

- Ends -

Further media enquiries

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Notes to editors**About Sesame Bankhall Group:**

- Sesame is the UK’s largest appointed representative (AR) network with 1,400 member firms.
- Bankhall is the market-leading support services business for 1,900 directly regulated IFA firms.
- PMS operates the largest mortgage club for directly regulated mortgage brokers in the UK.

Services provided include compliance and regulatory support, access to one of the UK’s most comprehensive training and development programmes, in-depth product research, preferential PI terms and access to the latest technology to enable advisers to write business more efficiently.

During the course of this year Sesame Bankhall Group has announced a series of investments in its technology infrastructure and in new services.

The group has rolled out its Sesame One and Bankhall One investment platform support services; along with its Compliance Insight platform to help members better manage their regulatory risks; plus a new online learning management system to boost training and development support; and an automated customer feedback system called TCF Centre.

Other initiatives include the opening of The Financial Adviser School, the launch of Sesame Bankhall Valuation Services and Sesame Bankhall Legal Services. The group also announced recently that over 1,000 advisers are now using its new Zenith protection panel.

About IRESS

IRESS is a principal supplier of share market and wealth management systems in Australia, Asia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa.

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IRESS produces innovative, sophisticated solutions for financial market and wealth management participants. Our two core product streams, IRESS and XPLAN, comprise a market information and trading platform and an extensive suite of financial planning and associated tools. Both product streams support a diverse range of roles and offer front, middle and back-office functionality.

IRESS' clients range from large corporations through to independent operators. We support all financial market and wealth participants who have a need to manage and monitor industry information.

IRESS is a progressive, service-based organisation that employs over 650 staff in 14 offices worldwide. Located in the centre of the major financial districts, our staff have local knowledge and industry experience. Open channels of communication keep us focused and informed across the entire business.