

---PRESS RELEASE---

**Palamon Capital Partners  
Invests in  
John Scott & Partners  
first building block in strategy to establish a major force within UK  
IFA market**

Palamon Capital Partners has completed an investment in John Scott & Partners Ltd, the first step in a strategy to build a major force within the independent financial adviser (IFA) market in the UK. Today the IFA market is highly fragmented with over 11,000 companies and 28,000 registered advisors.

During 2003, Palamon joined forces with Toby Strauss, previously Managing Director of Charcol, the UK's leading mortgage broker, to develop an appropriate platform for establishing a leading IFA with national reach. Founded in 1965, John Scott & Partners is a successful wealth management firm providing independent financial advice to high net worth individuals and currently manages assets approaching €400 million. Palamon is backing a highly experienced management team to effect a rapid national expansion plan for John Scott & Partners through focused organic growth and possible acquisitions.

Toby Strauss commented: "There is increasing demand amongst wealthy individuals in the UK for truly impartial and holistic financial advice. In today's market it is often difficult to find top quality IFAs providing such advice. I believe that JS&P has a client driven model that will enable us to exploit opportunities in a changing market and allow the building of a leading IFA with national reach".

Miles Cresswell-Turner, Partner, Palamon Capital Partners said, "We have earmarked up to €30 million to finance the continued expansion of Toby Strauss' vision. The market conditions are now right to effect broader based consolidation of this highly fragmented industry."

**Enquiries:** Palamon Capital Partners Tel: +44 20 7851 9900

<b>Annette E. Wilson</b>	<b>Paola Solares</b>
Chief Financial Officer	Investor Relations

**Note to the editor:**

Palamon Capital Partners, L.P. is an independent private equity partnership founded in 1999, which is focused on providing equity for European growth services companies. Palamon is one of the few truly pan-European investors originating, executing and managing investments in the UK, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, France and Germany. The Firm targets investments of between €20 and €50 million in companies where it can be the lead private equity provider and where the partnership's experienced principals can provide strategic direction and support to help build equity value.

The Firm manages Palamon European Equity, L.P. and its parallel funds, which together have capital commitments of €440 million, making up one of the largest pools of private equity capital dedicated to growth investment opportunities in Europe's mid market arena. Investors in Palamon funds are based in the US, Europe and the Middle East and are among the most significant investment institutions in the world.