

COLLINS STEWART ADDS OIL & GAS TO U.S. RESEARCH LINE-UP***Katherine Lucas Minyard Joins Firm from J.P. Morgan to Cover U.S. and Canadian Integrated Oils***

New York, NY – April 13, 2009 – Collins Stewart, a leading independent financial advisory group, today announced it has hired Katherine Lucas Minyard to initiate coverage of U.S. integrated Oil & Gas companies and expand coverage of Canadian integrated oil firms. Lucas, who will be based in New York City, further strengthens the firm's global research of Oil & Gas, which is also covered in Collins Stewart's London office.

"We are very pleased to welcome Kate and her Oil & Gas sector expertise to the firm's highly regarded research team," said John Abularrage, Chief Executive Officer of Collins Stewart's North American operations. "Her appointment not only reflects Collins Stewart's ability to attract top-tier talent from bulge bracket firms, it also demonstrates our continued commitment to strategically hiring the best and brightest individuals in the industry."

Before joining Collins Stewart, Lucas was an analyst covering the Oil & Gas sector at J.P. Morgan, where she worked for several years with noted analyst, Gordon Gray, who joined Collins Stewart in July 2008 to head the firm's global Oil & Gas team in London. Prior to J.P. Morgan, Lucas worked in energy finance and risk management consulting, including investment valuation and commodity forward curve modeling. She began her career at McKinsey & Company, where she worked as a management consultant serving clients in the energy, technology, and public sectors in the U.S., Mexico, and South Africa.

Lucas, who is a CFA charterholder, graduated summa cum laude from Texas A&M University and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Mathematics. She also earned a Master of Business Administration from INSEAD in Fontainebleau, France.

Sectors covered by Collins Stewart's leading U.S. research team include Technology, Healthcare, Defense & Electronics/Communications and Energy.

- ends -

For further information please contact:

In the United States:

W.T. Blase & Associates, Inc. 212-221-1079
Bill Blase, Cathy Loos or Stephanie Kuffner

In the UK:**Collins Stewart**

Charlotte Kirkham +44 (0)7989 528 421
M Communications

Collins Stewart plc is a leading independent financial advisory group listed on the London Stock Exchange. Collins Stewart plc employs 700 staff in 10 international locations and is organised around four operational divisions: Advisory, Corporate Broking, Securities and Wealth Management, all served by its unique research tool, Quest™. More information at www.collinsstewart.com

The above description of Collins Stewart plc is communicated by Collins Stewart Europe Limited, a company authorised and regulated in the UK by the Financial Services Authority ("FSA") (with firm reference number: 182011). The FSA's principle place of business is at 25 the North Colonnade, London, E14 5HS.