



Aston Asset Management Announcement

**Montag & Caldwell, Inc., Subadviser to Aston Asset Management,
Announces Employee-Led Buyout**

The employees of Montag & Caldwell, an investment management firm with \$14 billion in assets under management that specializes in growth equity investing, today announced their agreement to buy the Company from BNP Paribas Fortis. Upon closing, employees will own 100% of the firm. Specific terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

In an outstanding display of continuity and enthusiasm for the transaction, every Officer of the Company including Portfolio Management, Research, Marketing, and Trading is participating in the purchase, and will be owners of the firm going forward. Ron Canakaris, the Company's Chairman and Chief Investment Officer said, "The entire team at Montag & Caldwell is extremely pleased to be the proud owners of this quality franchise, and we look forward to continuing to add value to our clients' portfolios. We have always operated as a close-knit, independent, and autonomous unit which will only be strengthened under the new structure. All 49 of our employees are highly motivated and enthusiastic about this transaction."

"For more than 15 years, Montag & Caldwell has contributed strongly to Aston's mission to provide the best investment processes and business standards to our investors," stated Ken Anderson, President of Aston Asset Management, LP. "We are very excited at the news of Montag's employee-led buyout, which is a reflection of its commitment towards further excellence in investment management."

If you have any questions, please contact Aston's Advisor Services at 800-597-9704.