The Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority and NASDAQ OMX Announce a Joint Corporate Governance Initiative

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia and NEW YORK, Mar 24, 2009 (GlobeNewswire via COMTEX News Network) -- The Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA) and The NASDAQ OMX Group, Inc. (Nasdaq:NDAQ) have agreed to launch a joint initiative designed to raise investor awareness of effective corporate governance around the world. The centerpiece of the plan will be a list of 100 senior executives -- including chairmen, chief executive officers or presidents -- of publicly traded companies who embody innovation, thought leadership and competitiveness.

The National Competitiveness Center (NCC), a division of the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA), and NASDAQ OMX will screen executives for the "100 CEOs List" using criteria based on best practice guidelines, competitiveness, financial performance and other data indicators.

The list will serve as a reference tool for the investing public and provide another measure of corporate performance. The 100 CEOs list will highlight exemplary corporate governance and executives who have demonstrated a commitment to effective practices and policies.

His Excellency, Mr. Amr Abdullah M.A. Al Dabbagh, SAGIA Governor and Chairman of the Board, said, "Saudi Arabia has worked over the last 4 years to improve its economy, using competitiveness as the driving discipline for its work. This dedicated focus has resulted, for example, in the World Bank ranking the country number 16 globally in its ease of doing business. We are now turning our attention to other aspects of competitiveness, including those impacting private sector.

"We are pleased to work with NASDAQ OMX in producing The 100 CEOs List, which will hopefully become a guide to good corporate citizenship, executive performance, and serve to further global understanding of how competitiveness principles can help to set apart corporate leaders as well as economies."

Magnus Bocker, president of NASDAQ OMX, said, "The 100 CEOs List will enhance transparency, raise investor awareness and inspire better corporate governance. We are pleased to partner with SAGIA on this important endeavor."

The 100 CEOs list will be international in scope but will initially be comprised of corporate leaders from the Saudi private sector. The list will be announced at the Global Competitiveness Forum in January 2010.

For more information about SAGIA, visit www.sagia.gov.sa

About Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA):

SAGIA's vision is to act as a gateway to investment in Saudi Arabia. We seek to attract sufficient investment to achieve sustainable rapid economic growth while capitalizing on the Kingdom's competitive strengths as the global capital of energy, and as a major hub between East and West. Our mission is to position Saudi Arabia among the top ten most competitive nations by 2010 through the creation of a pro-business environment and a knowledge-based society while putting forth its best effort to make Saudi Arabia a favorable investment destination in the region and throughout world.

About NASDAQ OMX

The NASDAQ OMX Group, Inc. is the world's largest exchange company. It delivers trading, exchange technology and public company services across six continents, with over 3,800 listed companies. NASDAQ OMX offers multiple capital raising solutions to companies around the globe, including its U.S. listings market, NASDAQ OMX Nordic, NASDAQ OMX Baltic, NASDAQ OMX First North, and the U.S. 144A sector. The company offers trading across multiple asset classes including equities, derivatives, debt, commodities, structured products and exchange-traded funds. NASDAQ OMX technology supports the operations of over 70 exchanges, clearing organizations and central securities depositories in more than 50 countries. NASDAQ OMX Nordic and NASDAQ OMX Baltic are not legal entities but describe the common offering from NASDAQ OMX exchanges in Helsinki, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Iceland, Tallinn, Riga, and Vilnius. For more information about NASDAQ OMX, visit http://www.nasdaqomx.com.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

The matters described herein contain forward-looking statements that are made under the Safe Harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements include, but are not limited to, statements about NASDAQ OMX's products and offerings. We caution that these statements are not guarantees of future performance. Actual results may

differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve a number of risks, uncertainties or other factors beyond NASDAQ OMX's control. These factors include, but are not limited to factors detailed in NASDAQ OMX's annual report on Form 10-K, and periodic reports filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. We undertake no obligation to release any revisions to any forward-looking statements.

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