

EXECUTION NOBLE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXECUTION NOBLE CONTINUES EXPANSION IN ENERGY SECTOR

Hires Thomas A. Rinaldi as Senior Energy Desk Analyst

New York and Greenwich, CONN. – March 15, 2009 – Execution Noble LLC, a leading investment banking and securities firm, today announced that it has hired Thomas A. Rinaldi as Senior Energy Desk Analyst to further build out the firm's expertise in the sector.

Rinaldi joins Execution Noble with nearly 10 years of experience covering various aspects of the energy sector. In his new role, Rinaldi will conduct daily, ongoing sector specific stock analysis, primarily in the oilfield services, exploration & production, and refining verticals. He will focus on developing stock selection, relative value and event driven investment ideas to support the Sales & Trading team in providing clients with actionable execution strategies.

"We are committed to providing our customers with value added content and idea generation. To that end we will continue to complement our highly regarded sales trading team with senior desk analysts who truly understand their respective fields but will not be encumbered by having to publish traditional research," Gary Cunningham, CEO, Execution Noble LLC said. "We will continue to create verticals that will leverage our international expertise and complement our pending merger with Banco Espirito Santo."

Prior to joining Execution Noble, Rinaldi worked at Brencourt Advisors, a \$2.5 billion Multi-Strategy Fund, as an Oil & Gas Equity Analyst/Portfolio Manager. Earlier in his career, Rinaldi was a Senior Equity Research Analyst covering offshore drilling contractors at Deutsche Bank Securities. He holds a Master of Business Administration in Finance from The Wharton School of University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Arts, cum laude in Economics from Harvard University.

Execution Noble's energy expertise includes capital markets, investment banking and M&A capabilities. The energy team is lead in the United Kingdom by Joe Philipsz, Head of the Power & Infrastructure Group and in the United States by Christopher Ruppel, Managing Director Capital Markets, and is active in both conventional and renewable energy.

About Execution Noble LLC

Execution Noble is a leading international investment banking group providing clients with execution; equity sales and trading; research; M&A; corporate finance; corporate broking; equity capital markets; and corporate access. The group has over 250 staff and recognized leadership in sell-side alpha generation, analyst research, agency broking, and growth and mid cap corporate broking and financial advisory services. It also operates agency credit and derivatives businesses. Headquartered in London, with offices in Scotland, the United States, Hong Kong, India, France and Germany, Execution Noble has been servicing many of the world's major investing institutions, including mutual funds, pension funds, insurance companies and hedge

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funds since 2001, as well as over 500 listed and unlisted growth and mid-cap companies. Empowered by its technology and differentiated by its people, Execution Noble also provides access to the market's core liquidity providers through extensive personal relationships and expertise. www.execution-noble.com

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