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Chaucer acquires leading Australian specialty underwriting agency

Broadens capabilities and further expands regional distribution with acquisition of SLE Holdings

Chaucer, the specialist insurer and member of The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc. (NYSE: THG), today announced the acquisition of SLE Holdings, known in the market as SLE Worldwide Australia, a market-leading underwriting agency and Lloyd's coverholder based in Sydney, Australia. SLE writes a broad range of specialty property and casualty products, with a focus on the sports, leisure and entertainment markets.

SLE's expertise and capabilities increase the specialty product capabilities of Chaucer's Syndicate 1084 and enhance Chaucer's competitive position in Australia. SLE will gain access to additional resources through the acquisition, helping the firm develop its business and capitalise on new growth opportunities.

SLE, founded in 2009 by Brad French, is a recognised leader for product innovation, broker-friendly technology and customer service. SLE includes Pacific Underwriting, a specialist commercial/industrial managing general underwriter.

"We are delighted to welcome the SLE team to our organisation," said John Fowle, chief executive officer of Chaucer. "This acquisition is an excellent strategic fit. It will enable us to increase our presence in this important market, giving us greater access to high-quality business and bringing us closer to our customers, while providing for a broader distribution of other Chaucer products in the future."

"This acquisition will enable us to expand our specialty capabilities as part of our long-term growth strategy, Hanover 2021," said Joseph M. Zubretsky, president and chief executive officer at The Hanover. "SLE will provide us with additional underwriting expertise, new product capabilities and greater access to the Australian market."

"We look forward to joining the team. Chaucer has a strong and well-recognised Lloyd's brand and we are excited about working with the Chaucer team to expand our current business offering, said Brad French, managing director of SLE. "This relationship also provides the strong platform needed to continue our profitable growth in this market."

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Enquiries

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Note to editors**About SLE**

SLE is an Australian based underwriting agency that targets the specialty areas of sport, leisure and entertainment as well as industrial and manufacturing. It has been operating in Australia since 1994 with capabilities of writing business in Australia, New Zealand and parts of South East Asia.

SLE provides brokers with the competitive advantage of offering a "one-stop shop" for schemes and programme for multiple classes of business, deploying underwriting, claims and risk management teams with many years of experience in underwriting these specialist risks in the Australian market.

To learn more, visit www.sleaustralia.com.au and www.pacificund.com.au.

About Chaucer

We are a leading specialty insurance group providing clients with proven smart risk solutions for underwriting and claims. Our enterprising and trusted experts offer with market-leading cross class capabilities, empowered decision-making and a tailored approach.

With our headquarters in London, and our international hubs for Europe, Latin America and Asia, we protect clients in over 200 countries and territories worldwide. We offer clients the flexibility of Lloyd's and, through Chaucer Dublin, the company market.

Through Lloyd's, our clients enjoy strong financial security with every policy supported by an A (excellent) rating from A.M. Best, A+ (strong) from Standard & Poor's and AA- (very strong) from Fitch Ratings. Chaucer Dublin has an A (excellent) rating from Standard & Poor's.

For more information, please visit www.chaucerplc.com.

Our clients also benefit from our membership of the Hanover Insurance Group, Inc., one of the largest insurance businesses in the United States. The Hanover offers standard and specialized insurance protection for small and mid-sized businesses, as well as for homes, automobiles, and other personal items. through a select group of independent agents and brokers. The Hanover maintains excellent ratings from A.M. Best, Standard & Poor's and Moody's. For more information, please visit www.hanover.com.