

Mellon Announces Strategic Alliance With Optima Fund Management

**Proprietary Fund Advisor to Partner Exclusively with Mellon Private Asset Management to
Serve Hedge Fund Investment Needs of High Net Worth Clients**

BOSTON, June 21 /PRNewswire/ -- **Mellon Financial Corporation** (NYSE: MEL) today announced an exclusive strategic alliance with **Optima Fund Management**. Through this alliance with Optima, a leader in the field of sponsoring multi-manager and single manager hedge fund investments, Mellon Private Asset Management's (MPAM) high net worth clients will have access to Optima's diverse array of hedge funds.

Under the terms of the Mellon-Optima agreement, no other domestic financial services firm will be able to offer Optima hedge fund investment vehicles. Further details of the agreement were not disclosed.

"This agreement reflects our commitment to continually enhance the depth and quality of the investment options we make available to our clients," said David F. Lamere, MPAM president. "Our relationship with Optima enables us to provide exclusive access to many of the world's most highly regarded hedge fund managers, while delivering these capabilities in the context of each of our clients' highly customized investment strategies."

Hedge funds are a highly specialized investment alternative. They include a wide range of strategies designed to produce superior risk-adjusted returns and to enhance diversification.

"Although hedge funds have been largely misunderstood, the fact is that there are many such funds run by conservative managers who understand the need to control risk and preserve capital," said D. Dixon Boardman, managing director of Optima. "Mellon is one of the nation's most well-respected and successful names in investment management. We're pleased to be able to work with a firm that shares our single-minded commitment to providing the highest quality service to substantial and sophisticated investors."

"In selecting a hedge fund offering for our clients, it was critical to find a provider who could provide both a high degree of quality and range in its investment options," explained Vernon Winters, MPAM chief investment officer. "We selected Optima as our partner because of the firm's experience and impressive record in this very specialized field. The quality and breadth of options Optima offers will provide us with the flexibility needed for our clients' distinct objectives, interests and financial situations."

Founded in 1988, Optima manages \$1.2 billion in assets for sophisticated, high net worth investors. It offers over 20 multi-advisor or single-advisor hedge funds both on-shore and off-shore through its Bermuda-based affiliate.

Mellon Private Asset Management, a registered service mark of Mellon Financial Corporation, is a nationally recognized leader in investment and wealth management services for high net worth individuals and families, family offices, endowments and foundations. With approximately \$96 billion of assets under management and administration, it ranks among the largest private asset managers in the country.

Mellon Financial Corporation (NYSE: MEL) is a global financial services company with more than \$2.8 trillion in assets under management, administration or custody, including more than \$500 billion under management. Its asset management companies include The Dreyfus Corporation and Newton Management Limited (U.K.). Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Mellon offers a comprehensive array of banking services for individuals and corporations and is one of the world's leading providers of asset management, trust, custody and benefits consulting services.

Press releases and other information about Mellon Financial Corporation and its products and services are available at <http://www.mellon.com> on the Internet. For Mellon press releases by fax, call 1-800-758-5804, identification number 552187.

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