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## **JANUS AND BNL INVESTIMENTI ANNOUNCE MAJOR DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT**

### **13 New Funds Available to BNL Investimenti Clients Beginning Today**

**Milan** – Janus, one of the largest investment management firms in the United States, announced today the signing of a significant new distribution agreement with BNL Investimenti, the investment arm of one of Italy’s leading banks.

Beginning today, BNL Investimenti will distribute 13 funds of Janus World Funds Plc. The agreement marks an important milestone for BNL as it looks to offer for the first time third-party funds to its Italian client base.

The mutual funds approved for public distribution in Italy are part of Janus World Funds Plc, a series of Ireland-based funds introduced in 1998 by the international division of Janus. Modeled after some of Janus’ strongest-performing US-based funds, they offer a variety of investment disciplines, including US Growth, US Value, Global Growth, US Combination, Income and Currency Reserve Funds.

“Given Italy’s significance, and its position as one of the largest, and fastest-growing mutual funds markets in Europe, this partnership represents an important step in our expansion plans,” said Richard Garland, chief executive officer of Janus International.

“This is a special relationship,” stressed Giovanni Dal Maschio, Managing Director of BNL Investimenti, “where products, management style, results analysis and future prospects are highly focused towards providing a premium service to our clients. We needed a few select and highly professional relationships, especially with investment

management companies that follow the same distribution philosophy. With Janus, we found ourselves in total agreement, since it is also highly selective in choosing distribution partners in Europe, with the common aim of creating a strong and long-term relationship in order to build together an effective distribution strategy.”

Beginning today BNL Investimenti will begin offering the following Janus World Funds to its Italian clients:

*US Growth*

**JWF Twenty Fund**  
**JWF All Cap Growth Fund**  
**JWF US Venture Fund**

*Core Equity*

**JWF Core Equity Fund**

*US Combination*

**JWF Balanced Fund**

*Value*

**JWF Global Value Fund**  
**JWF Strategic Value Fund**

*Income*

**JWF Flexible Income Fund**  
**JWF High Yield Fund**  
**JWF Short-Term Bond Fund**

*Global Growth*

**JWF Global Life Sciences Fund**  
**JWF Global Technology Fund**

*Currency Reserve*

**JWF Euro Reserve Fund**

“We’re excited to be working with one of Italy’s leading financial services firms,” said Alex Ricchebuono, Janus International’s regional director for southern Europe. “This agreement builds on our strategy of partnering with a small and select number of distribution partners.”

Janus International also provides separate accounts and subadvisory services.

In addition to its new office in Milan Janus has operations in London, Hong Kong and Tokyo as well as the U.S. Janus World Funds are available in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Taiwan. In April, Janus opened an office in the heart of Milan to serve its Italian clients.

Founded in 1969 in Denver, Colorado, Janus has grown to become one of the largest and most successful investment management companies in the United States. With expertise

in equity, fixed-income and money-market investments, Janus manages approximately US\$161 billion in assets (as of 30 April 2002) for four million mutual fund investors worldwide.

Janus' unique investment philosophy encourages its portfolio managers to search for the most dynamic, well-run companies – regardless of their size, industry or location. That bottom-up, research-intensive approach has produced strong long-term performance for Janus investors.

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Janus International was started in 1998 to bring the Janus investment approach to non-US investors. Later that year, Janus International introduced the first of our Janus World Funds Plc., a range of 14 funds modeled after some of Janus' strongest-performing US-based funds. Registered in Dublin, Ireland, the Janus World Funds offer a variety of investment disciplines, including US Growth, US Value, Global Growth, US Combination, Income and Currency Reserve Funds.

Janus International comprises a number of different operating companies including Janus International Limited (regulated by the Financial Services Authority).

Janus World Funds Plc (the "Fund") is a UCITS established under the laws of Ireland. An investment in the Fund may not be suitable for all investors and is not available to US persons. Investors should contact their financial adviser to determine if the Fund is available in their jurisdiction. Investment involves risks, and the prospectus should be read for further details. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. This document is not a solicitation for the sale of shares.