

Banorte to acquire Texas-Based "Inter National Bank"

25 Jan 2006

Monterrey, N.L., January 26, 2006 - Grupo Financiero Banorte (BMV: GFNORTE O) today announced the signing of a strategic agreement with Inter National Bank (INB), a move consistent with the Company's plan to enter the United States banking market and serve the increasingly important regional border economy. The Boards of both financial institutions unanimously approved the transaction.

Under the agreement, Banorte will acquire 70% of INB for US\$259 million, financed through internal resources. Banorte will also have the option to acquire the remaining 30%. INB's current management will continue operating the bank jointly with Banorte.

Both institutions anticipate closing the transaction during the fourth quarter of this year, pending required approvals from Mexican and United States banking regulators.

INB is a financial institution with US\$1.1 billion in assets, US\$940 million in deposits, and a loan portfolio exceeding US\$680 million. The bank services its customers through 14 branches, 11 of which are located in McAllen and 3 of which are in El Paso. Virtually all of INB's 278 employees are bicultural and bilingual.

With the agreement, Banorte will take advantage of the growing economic integration between the United States and Mexico, a relationship creating over \$300 billion annually in bilateral trade and a million border crossings daily. In fact, the 40 million Hispanics residing in the US have now become the largest minority population in the nation.

INB is located in the fast growing south-Texas border zone, a region populated by 1.8 million inhabitants, 71% of whom are of Mexican origin.

The city of McAllen is the number one Texas metropolitan area in terms of population growth and is fourth nationally. The broader El Paso, Juarez region is considered the most populous border region between the US and Mexico, with a population of over two million. The gross product of the Rio Grande Valley and El Paso region totals US\$30 billion. Finally, the area encompassing Texas and Northeast Mexico (Chihuahua, Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon and Coahuila) could be considered the seventh largest economic zone in the world, with an annual gross product approaching one trillion dollars.

"With the acquisition of INB, Banorte will establish a direct US international presence in one of the most important and vibrant economic regions along the US-Mexico border," stated Roberto González Barrera, Chairman of Grupo Financiero Banorte's Board of Directors. "The acquisition of INB offers a platform for Banorte's expansion into the US. The transaction not only fosters the diversification of our geographical reach, but also gives us access to new high growth markets," he added.

"With this acquisition, Banorte seeks to create bi-national financial products tailored to serve the demands of families and companies that increasingly have banking needs on both sides of the border. We hope to create bridges that facilitate transactions to unite communities in both countries and to help businesses become more efficient and grow," stated Luis Peña Kegel, Grupo Financiero Banorte's Chief Executive Officer.

Jim Collins, Principal Shareholder of INB, stated "We immediately felt the professional and personal chemistry with Banorte and are very excited to align ourselves with such a solid financial institution. INB and Banorte complement each other in many important ways: geographic location, business focus, product and service portfolios, financial performance, and corporate culture. Our collective work over the past months towards that common objective represented by today's signing has cultivated a very positive relationship between us, as both individuals and organizations. This has established a solid foundation to create profitability and value for the Banorte and INB shareholders, and the border communities we serve."

"It's an honor for us to sign this transaction with Grupo Financiero Banorte. This partnership comes at a crucial time in INB's history, allowing us to enhance our current services. Once this transaction receives the necessary regulatory approvals, we foresee a rapid integration, so that the current Banorte clients and INB customers begin to benefit from the many synergies of such an ideal combination" said Carlos Garza, President and Chief Executive Officer of Inter National Bank.

J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. acted as exclusive financial advisor to Banorte in connection with the transaction.

This transaction is aligned with a series of Banorte initiatives to serve the Hispanic market in the US. In 2004 the company launched the Enlace Express® card to provide banking services to Mexican beneficiaries of

remittances from the US. Banorte has also entered into remittance service alliances with American financial institutions, such as Wells Fargo and Bank of America.

About Banorte

Grupo Financiero Banorte is the largest Mexican-owned financial group in Mexico and is the 4th largest financial institution operating in Mexico, with a market capitalization of US\$4.2 billion. Banorte provides comprehensive services to its customers through over 1,000 branches and 2,800 ATMs nationwide. Banorte was recognized by the British publication The Banker as the "Best Bank of the Year in 2005". Banorte has a successful history of acquisitions of Mexican financial institutions, including Afin Casa de Bolsa, Bancentro, Banpais, and Bancrecer and has a successful partnership with Italy's largest insurance group, Assicurazioni Generali.

<http://www.banorte.com>

About INB

INB was founded in 1983 in McAllen, Texas and has become an important player in the Rio Grande Valley and El Paso, areas experiencing one of the largest growth rates in the United States. As of December 2005, the bank had total assets of US\$1.1 billion and pre-tax income of US\$28 million. The bank's performance has been nationally recognized: the ABA Journal ranked INB the "Top Bank in Profitability" in 2002. The IBCA ranked the bank fourth in overall performance in 2004 and fifth in 2005.

<http://www.inbweb.com>

Cautionary Language Concerning Forward-Looking Statements

This news release does not constitute, nor must be interpreted as an offer to sell or purchase securities issued by Banorte. Any decision in connection thereof must be made solely and exclusively based on the information published periodically by Banorte in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. This news release contains certain forward-looking statements regarding intentions, expectations, and projections of Banorte on the date hereof that refer to the transactions described herein. Actual results or achievements may differ materially from such projections since such projections involve significant known and unknown risks and uncertainties which may cause the actual results obtained to differ substantially from Banorte's expectations. Banorte disclaims any obligation to update any information contained herein.

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