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NEWBURY PIRET & CO. FINALIST FOR NATIONAL M&A ADVISOR AWARDS

Boston, MA – November 15, 2005 – Newbury Piret & Co., a leading Boston investment banking firm, has received two nominations for M&A Advisor awards in this year’s “Academy Awards of Middle Market M&A.” The firm is one among five finalists in the categories of Women Deal Maker of the Year and Financial Services Deal of the Year.

Women Deal Maker of the Year

Marguerite A. Piret, President & CEO, Newbury Piret & Co., Inc.

Financial Services Deal of the Year

Monitor Group acquires Strategic Pricing Group

Richard Vinci, John Piret and Hugh Taylor of Newbury Piret served as exclusive financial advisor to Strategic Pricing Group

The M&A Advisor, a leading publisher for financial executives in middle market mergers and acquisitions, recently announced the finalists for The Fourth Annual M&A Advisor Awards, also known as “The Academy Awards of Middle Market M&A.” The nominations were announced by the publication’s CEO and publisher Roger Aguinaldo at a reception at the “Doubles Club” in New York City. The winners will be revealed at the annual awards dinner on December 5, 2005 that celebrates the top executives and most innovating transactions within the middle market sector. The event is an exciting part of the publication’s 11th annual conference that will be held on December 5-6th, 2005 at The New York Athletic Club in New York City.

The publication’s nomination committee went through a rigorous and lengthy process in selecting the nominees which resulted in the selection of over one hundred and twenty nominations in twenty-two different categories. These categories included topics such as: computer and information technology, retailing, financial services, life sciences and healthcare to name a few. Members of the publications editorial board as well as a select number of other members from the journalistic community comprise the nomination committee. These members include: Roderick Boyd of *The New York Sun*, Dane Hamilton of *Reuters* and Warren Stugash of *The New York Times*.

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The nominations follow a period of intensive M&A transaction and financial advisory activity at the firm, including the transaction which received special recognition as an M&A Advisor finalist. M&A Advisor commented regarding the Strategic Pricing Group/Monitor transaction that “Newbury Piret’s matchmaking efforts in the rarified atmosphere of a top-notch consulting organization resulted in the powerful combination of a leading pricing advisor and a major formulator of business strategies.” Richard Vinci, John Piret and Hugh Taylor of Newbury Piret worked as the exclusive financial advisor to Strategic Pricing Group on the transaction.

As a middle market firm, Newbury Piret is regarded as unique in providing strategic advice in M&A along with financing capabilities which support acquisitions, growth investments and recapitalizations. Newbury Piret shares its observations about the M&A and capital markets periodically through newsletters.

About the M&A Advisor

The M&A Advisor is a leading newsletter, website and conference publisher delivering services that provide executives, M&A professionals and others with information about the intricate world of buying and selling middle market companies. The company’s products include *The M&A Advisor* monthly newsletter; *The Mergers & Acquisitions Advisor Online* (www.m&aadvisor.com); The Mergers & Acquisitions Advisor Conference and Expo (www.m&aadvisor.com/conference); The M&A ALERTS e-zine; special reports, software and publications; and consulting services. For further information, visit www.m&aadvisor.com. Or call 1-877-99-MERGE (1-877-996-3743).

About Newbury, Piret & Company, Inc.

Founded in 1981, Newbury Piret Co. is a prominent New England investment banking firm providing Corporate Finance services including, M&A, Financial Advisory, and Valuation services. Headquartered in Boston and independently owned, Newbury Piret is a NASD licensed broker dealer focused on Middle-Market Companies, the Private Equity Community and Business Owning Families. Newbury Piret is regarded as unique in providing strategic advice in M&A along with financing capabilities which support acquisitions, growth investments, and recapitalizations. Newbury Piret shares its observations about the M&A and capital markets through its Capital Markets Review. For further information, please visit <http://www.newburypiret.com>. Or call 1-617-367-7300.