

AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS and BOSTON, UNITED STATES | 26 September 2012

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A New Generation in Strategic Advisory

Investment Consulting Associates (ICA) and CWS Consulting Group Form Transatlantic Global Site Selection Firm

[Investment Consulting Associates \(ICA\)](#) and [CWS Consulting Group \(CWS\)](#) have entered into an agreement to merge the two consulting houses into one global firm offering site selection, location strategy, SCM, BPO, investment attraction and economic development services.

The combined firm which will continue under the ICA flag will represent both companies' heritage as independent advisers to companies exploring new investment opportunities locally and around the globe. The strategic advice provided by the firm's expert professionals will be further augmented by two online software packages for location selection and incentives advisory data: [LocationSelector.com](#) and [ICAincentives.com](#). The merger into one global firm, ICA, will be effective from January 1, 2013.

Dr. Douglas van den Berghe, Managing Director of ICA will hold the position of Chief Executive Officer of the combined entity: "This merger reflects our strong commitment to clients that we can provide global services in combination with local expertise and insights." The team of the CWS Group is highly professional with a broad range of capabilities. We look forward to servicing our clients around the world with our new Transatlantic team of professionals.

Mr. Christopher Steele, President of CWS will be the Chief Operating Officer of the combined entity and also President of ICA North America: "Location decisions transcend borders, and our clients need to know that we are able to help them whether the decision is around the block or halfway around the world. In ICA, we have come together with a team of professionals who share our client-centered approach and who will help us provide the same world-class services. We are truly excited to bring these two teams together."

Both Mr. Steele and Dr. van den Berghe have over twenty years of experience in location consulting, and each headed Ernst & Young's Location Advisory Service practice in their respective regions.

For further information about our location selection solutions, optimization services, and software packages please contact us directly:

Investment Consulting Associates - ICA:

Dr. Douglas van den Berghe, + 31 20 217 0115- douglas@ic-associates.com

CWS Consulting Group LLC:

Chris Steele, +1 617 314 6527 - chris.steele@cwsgrp.com
chris@ic-associates.com

About Investment Consulting Associates (ICA)

Investment Consulting Associates (ICA) is an independent adviser to companies optimizing their global supply chains and location portfolios. ICA also supports governments in building and enhancing their Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and economic development strategies. Through our global partner network and multi-disciplinary approach we can assist our clients with an integrated package of service offerings.

Our business philosophy is to utilize smart and efficient software solutions in providing dedicated and tailored consulting services. LocationSelector.com and ICAincentives.com are two of our flagship web based products for companies and governments

assessing and benchmarking the competitiveness of global business locations and optimizing their incentive potential. This unique service offering differentiates [Investment Consulting Associates](#) from traditional management consulting firms who are active in the field of investment promotion and corporate site selection services.



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