

2 June 2008

BLUE OAR PLC

ACQUISITION OF ASTAIRE & PARTNERS LIMITED

Blue Oar plc (“Blue Oar” or “the Group”), the investment bank and stockbroker, is pleased to announce the acquisition of Astaire & Partners Limited (“Astaire”) the independent agency stockbroker and bespoke private client discretionary fund manager, based in the City of London.

Astaire offers a comprehensive range of traditional stockbroking services. The company has developed a global network of counterparties through which it services its broad range of international clients. Formed in 1960 as a stockbroking partnership, Astaire rapidly acquired international expertise, becoming the second London stockbroker to become a full member of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and was a founder Shareholder of Euroclear.

Additionally Astaire has established significant business connections in Singapore and Malaysia. This will serve as a valuable compliment to Blue Oar’s presence in Australia. Astaire’s strong international links will provide an excellent platform to expand all areas of Blue Oar’s business overseas.

The aggregate consideration for the acquisition of Astaire is £1.67 million comprising £1.5 million in cash payable on completion and 1.3 million Blue Oar shares at 13p per share (“Consideration Shares”).

Application will be made to London Stock Exchange plc for the Consideration Shares to be admitted to trading on AIM. The Consideration Shares will rank pari passu in all respects with the existing ordinary shares in issue and it is expected that trading will become effective on 6 June 2008.

In the year ended 30 August 2007, Astaire had audited revenues of £3.1 million and made a profit before tax of £0.5m on a normalised basis. As at 31 May 2008 Astaire is anticipated to have net assets of £0.9m. The acquisition is expected to be earnings enhancing in its first full year on a fully diluted basis.

Commenting on the acquisition Andrew Monk, Chief Executive of Blue Oar said:

"We are delighted to welcome Astaire into the Group. A successful and established stockbroker, Astaire compliments Blue Oar’s existing business enabling us to further strengthen our client base and increase our funds under management as well as broaden our presence internationally.

“The acquisition is in line with our strategy of investing in the future growth of the Group, taking advantage of acquisition opportunities presented by current market conditions and that our strong balance sheet enables us to make. Blue Oar has a clear strategy to create a specialist investment bank with long term stable earnings and this acquisition helps in achieving this.”

For further information, please contact:

Andrew Monk/Chris Roberts
Blue Oar Plc

Tel: 020 7448 4400

Richard Kauffer
KBC Peel Hunt Ltd

Tel: 020 7418 8900

Reg Hoare/Andrew Wilde/Rebecca Whitehead
Smithfield

Tel: 020 7360 4900

Steven Astaire/Peter Joy
Astaire & Partners Limited

Tel. 020 73322 2600

Benoit Guerin/John Buxton
IMAS Corporate Advisors Limited

Tel: 020 7444 4399.