

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Sydney, Wednesday May 2, 2007**

### **IXIS Australia awarded \$450 million Colonial First State mandate**

IXIS Asset Management Australia Limited (“IXIS Australia”) today announced it has been awarded a A\$450 million global bond mandate from Colonial First State for the FirstChoice platform.

The mandate will be managed by key IXIS Australia affiliate Loomis, Sayles & Company, L.P. (“Loomis Sayles”) and will allow Loomis Sayles’s global bond expertise to be accessed by Australian retail investors through the multi-manager fixed interest option available through FirstChoice.

The mandate follows changes to Loomis Sayles's global bond investment guidelines this year to increase its flexibility and capture Loomis Sayles's best investment ideas.

In addition to traditional global bonds, the mandate will allow Loomis Sayles to tap into high-yield securities, emerging market debt and senior bank loans as additional sources of excess return.

IXIS Australia’s Investment Director, Ms Deborah Alliston, said: “We are pleased to welcome Colonial First State as a valued client of IXIS Australia and look forward to them introducing Loomis Sayles's capabilities to the retail marketplace.”

Through IXIS Australia, Loomis Sayles now manages more than A\$3.6 billion on behalf of Australian investors in fixed income and equity.

**ENDS**

For more information or interviews, please contact:

Campbell Fuller or Arianne Hamilton  
evolution media  
p +61 (0)2 8969 6077  
e [campbell@evolutionmedia.com.au](mailto:campbell@evolutionmedia.com.au), [arianne@evolutionmedia.com.au](mailto:arianne@evolutionmedia.com.au)

## NOTES TO THE EDITORS:

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### **About IXIS Asset Management Australia Limited:**

IXIS Asset Management Australia Limited ABN 60 088 786 289 AFSL No. 246830 ("IXIS Australia"). IXIS Australia is part of the international IXIS Asset Management Group, which as at December 2006, managed US\$617 billion worldwide. Commencing operations in 2000, IXIS Australia provides integrated portfolio solutions to wholesale investors through its affiliation with 12 boutique managers, including Harris Associates L.P., Harris Alternatives L.L.C and Loomis, Sayles & Company L.P. The investment management affiliates mentioned above are licensed to provide investment advisory services in the US and conduct any portfolio management activities in and from the US.

### **About Loomis, Sayles & Company L.P. ("Loomis"):**

Based in Boston, Massachusetts, Loomis is a specialist fixed income and equity manager. In operation since 1926, Loomis is best known in the Australian institutional market as the investment manager of the IXIS Loomis Sayles Global Bond Fund ARSN 099 697 775, which has grown to include A\$340 million in assets since inception five years ago. As at 31 December 2006, Loomis manages over US\$105 billion in equity and fixed income assets.

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