

NOTE TO EDITORS (Thursday, September 16, 2004)

EQECAT UPDATES ESTIMATES OF INSURED LOSSES FROM HURRICANE IVAN

**Initial Estimates Place U.S. Gulf Coast Insured Losses
at Approximately \$4 Billion to \$10 Billion**

Update Reflects Thursday's Track, Intensity and Possible Landfalls of Storm Data

EQECAT, Inc. estimates insured losses from about \$4 billion to \$10 billion. The revised estimated insured losses take into account Hurricane Ivan's landfall between **Mobile, Alabama and Pensacola, Florida with a maximum sustained wind at landfall of 130 mph. The storm is currently at a category one.** Estimates are based upon updated information provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) about Hurricane Ivan, **which hit as a category 3 hurricane.**

The loss estimate is downgraded from yesterday because the storm at landfall was less intense than expected and the landfall location was not a "worst case" location.

The areas that observed the highest winds were Baldwin County, Alabama and Escambia and Santa Rosa counties in Florida. Pensacola is in Escambia, Florida. Approximately from 30 percent to 50 percent of the losses from this event are expected to be in the state of Florida, the bulk of the remainder of the losses is distributed between Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

EQECAT Representatives Available For Commentary

Representatives of EQECAT are available to provide commentary regarding Hurricane Ivan and updated estimates. For additional information, please contact Eric Samansky, The Samansky Group, at 516-799-4144 or 516-319-0858.

Hurricane Model is Part of WORLDCATenterprise™

The EQECAT U.S. Hurricane model (**USWIND**), which is part of WORLDCATenterprise™, was recently certified for the seventh consecutive year by the Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology for use in Florida. Primary insurers, reinsurers, intermediaries, and other financial institutions use the EQECAT model to develop strategies for pricing, portfolio management, and risk transfer for natural catastrophe risks.

EQECAT Serves Global Insurance, Business, Financial Services

EQECAT, an affiliate of ABSG Consulting Inc., serves the global property and casualty insurance industry, major multinational corporations and financial institutions. EQECAT is known as the technical leader and innovator in the development of analysis tools and methodologies to quantify insurers' and major corporations' exposure to natural and manmade catastrophic risk.

It is a recognized industry thought-leader providing the expertise and real-world tested tools to turn risk-theory into innovative actions and solutions to effectively manage extreme-risk worldwide. EQECAT's flagship product, WORLDCATenterprise, is a multi-user platform for evaluating insured risks for many natural catastrophe perils in 88 countries.

EQECAT was founded in 1994 and is headquartered in Oakland, California. ABSG Consulting Inc., headquartered in Houston, Texas, has risk-management revenues of more than \$140 million, and more than 1,000 employees worldwide.

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