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Mining underpins investor confidence but mining juniors still face liquidity problems

- Mining operations such as Vedanta push the FTSE 100 back into positive territory
 - Small cap mining companies are among the most illiquid on AIM and PLUS
 - New campaign addresses liquidity problems among mining juniors

21 October 2009 – While the mining sector has recently been credited with pushing the FTSE 100 back into positive territory, the stocks of small cap mining and exploration companies remain among the most illiquid on AIM and PLUS and suffer from the widest bid-offer spreads and normal market size restrictions.

In response, Sharemark, a leading alternative trading platform, has joined forces with specialist business strategist Catalyst Strategies to launch *Sharemark for Miners*, a campaign designed to address the liquidity problems among mining juniors.

Sophie Douglas, manager of Sharemark, said: “Together with Catalyst Strategies we are addressing liquidity issues among small cap mining and exploration companies, their investors and shareholders.

“Sharemark can provide mining juniors and their shareholders with an order-driven market that works with existing AIM and PLUS quotes to provide an additional liquidity pool for their stock.”

Malcolm Palle, director, Catalyst Strategies, said: “Last year we saw how liquidity issues can turn a bad situation into a nightmare. Some small cap miners had as much as 90% wiped off their market cap.

“Sharemark has shown itself to be particularly sensitive to trading liquidity issues and the impact they have on small cap companies and their shareholders.”

Paul Johnson, director, Catalyst Strategies added: “With confidence slowly returning to the sector, we believe the time is right for Sharemark’s unique trading platform, which is designed to enhance trading liquidity where it is most needed.”

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About Sharemark

Sharemark is a periodic auction-based dealing facility designed primarily for emerging or smaller companies. Its website www.sharemark.com shows bids to buy and offers to sell. The price is set at each auction by calculating the single price at which as many orders as possible will be filled. Auction frequency is generally determined by the number of shareholders a company has and the likely trading volumes.

The investments and/or services referred to in this document may not be suitable for every investor and if in doubt you should contact a financial adviser. It may be difficult for investors to buy and sell investments referred to and/or obtain reliable information about their value or the extent of risks to which the price is exposed. Share prices on Sharemark may be subject to sudden and large falls in value given the restricted marketability of the shares/units and you may not get back the amount you originally invested.

Sharemark constitutes a Multilateral Trading Facility and is not a Recognised Investment Exchange, Clearing House or Regulated Market within the meaning of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive. Sharemark is a trading division of The Share Centre Limited, which is a member of the London Stock Exchange and authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority under reference 146768. Sharemark is a registered trademark.

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About Catalyst Strategies

Catalyst Strategies is a specialist business strategy company founded by business efficiency and risk specialist, Value Generation Limited.

The company is an appointed representative of The Share Centre Limited and is working with Sharemark to develop and promote a range of creative trading solutions designed to improve trading liquidity for companies within the small cap mining, exploration and resources sector.