



# MIAMI STOCK EXCHANGE PRESS RELEASE

## **MS4X AND UNITED STATES EXCHANGES WILL OFFER COMPUTERIZED TRADING SERVICES TO THE FTAA.**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Miami, Florida – March 20, 2004** - The Miami Stock Exchange "MS4X" listened with great interest to Mayor Manny Diaz's second "State of the City of Miami" address. One major thrust and area of great focus for Mayor Diaz is to secure a permanent location and seat for the Free Trade Area of the Americas in downtown Miami. Mayor Diaz emphasized during his address that "This is a mammoth undertaking will require the cooperation and support of all of us. I am confident that Miami will stake our claim loud and clear that the FTAA belongs in Miami, permanently.

The FTAA is an integration effort that will encompass an area comprised of 800 million customers and a combined GDP of \$14 trillion, making it the largest trading block in the world (spanning from Argentina to Alaska). It is expected that by 2005, the FTAA membership body, comprised of democratically elected heads of state of the Western Hemisphere, will select a location for its Permanent Secretariat.

A well-focused and comprehensive effort is being led by Florida's Governor Jeb Bush to ensure Miami-Dade as the host location for the FTAA Secretariat. The Governor has appointed former US Ambassador Chuck Cobb as chairman to lead this important undertaking and tasked him to galvanize the involvement of local government to place Miami-Dade at the top of list of cities in the selection process.

Miami Stock Exchange President Robert Dobiecki remarked, "With the substantial economic, cultural, historical and political linkages to Latin America and the Caribbean, and with incredible appreciation that Miami remains the Gateway to the Americas, our city is well-positioned to take advantage of this important distinction by becoming the FTAA Secretariat.

Dobiecki continued, "We are going to be involved with this important initiative. It is our view that unification and harmonization among the Americas and the stock exchanges that reside therein is paramount to the long-term vision of the FTAA Secretariat. To this end, our support for City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz and Governor Bush is unwavering in securing the FTAA Secretariat and bringing it to downtown Miami."

**About FTAA:** The Free Trade Area of the Americas Treaty, to be completed by 2005, will create the largest free trade area in the world, stretching from Argentina to Alaska, with a total GDP of more than \$14 trillion and 800 million consumers.

**About Miami Stock Exchange (MS4X):** MS4X is a currency, futures and stock exchange service provider specifically dedicated to offer fully-developed electronic trading software, processing and distribution services to the global financial community. The MS4X will emerge as a major hub for managed trading services for the 27 Latin American and Caribbean Exchanges, also known as the G27. The MS4X has a seasoned and accomplished management team with direct contact, knowledge, and relationships with the world's leading firms in financial services. The MS4X management plan will enable the G27 to take advantage of secure and unparalleled transaction processing through a host of managed service providers. The MS4X has the endorsement and steadfast support of the City of Miami.