



# MIAMI STOCK EXCHANGE PRESS RELEASE

## DIPLOMACY AND COLLABORATION BRING FTAA CLOSER TO FRUITION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Miami, Florida – July 01, 2004** – In a recent communication from the City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, the City views the furtherance of diplomacy and collaboration among the FTAA participants as an essential requisite to bringing the FTAA Secretariat and its related operations to Miami. Diaz states, “Miami is the natural residence for the FTAA. There are a host of essentials that the City possesses, making Miami a unique hub for trade and commerce of this kind. The geographical advantages speak volumes, but when you factor into the equation, the potential for innovation and unification; it becomes a powerful mechanism for trading with far-reaching benefits for a host of businesses that stand to prosper from the FTAA.”

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 maintains, “The financial systems, backbone and infrastructure are grounded in Miami to guarantee the FTAA’s success. We need to make diplomacy a priority. Trade agreements are continuing to emerge in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is time to showcase the financial systems that drive and steer these agreements in a collaborative spirit.”

**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. [www.alca-ftaa.org](http://www.alca-ftaa.org)

**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.