



## Press Release

Under embargo until 13 July 2004

### **Penson Acquires Nexa Technologies, Inc: Extends Retail Brokerage Trading Solutions Offerings and Appoints Nexa President as President of ITS**

**Penson's Extended Offerings Ensure Improved STP, Customer Service and Cost  
Efficiencies to Retail Broker, Money Manager and RIA Clients**

**Dallas, July 13, 2004** – Penson Worldwide, a leading provider of execution, clearing, custody and settlement services for the global securities markets, today announced its acquisition of Nexa Technologies Inc., the California-based direct access retail brokerage solutions provider. Penson also announced the appointment of Eric Stoop, President, Nexa Technologies, as President, Integrated Trading Systems, Inc (ITS), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Penson Worldwide. The move further establishes Penson's focus on delivering leading edge technology and superior service offerings to its correspondent, investment advisors, wealth managers and proprietary trading firm clients.

Penson's acquisition of Nexa Technologies adds a comprehensive suite of software tools for retail brokers to Penson's global offerings, which ranges from its basic web front-end brokerage trading system to its professional trading workstation and suite of brokerage management tools. Nexa's multi-lingual and multi-currency trade management and analysis tools allow retail brokers, money managers and registered investment advisors to maximize their trading activities and minimize costs in a flexible, user-friendly and highly-scaleable environment. With front-end Direct Market Access and seamless integration into Penson's back office clearing, custody and settlement services, users will benefit from the seamless Straight-Through Processing of their trades.

Eric Stoop, President, Nexa Technologies and newly-appointed President, ITS, comments: "Penson, Nexa and our respective clients have gained significant benefits from the technology partnership we have nurtured over the past three years. This acquisition further solidifies an already strong relationship that will allow Nexa further

growth and the ability to deploy even more robust products and services to its clients.”

Daniel P. Son, President, Penson Worldwide, comments: “Penson continues to experience solid growth throughout its global client base. We are dedicated to providing our clients with superior technology and services. The addition of Nexa’s execution and trade management tools to Penson’s extensive suite of outsourced, back office global securities offerings and integrated technology solutions will further strengthen our ability to help our clients maintain their competitive edge through our comprehensive range of low cost, flexible solutions.”

Penson plans to integrate Nexa’s retail brokerage-oriented products into the Penson group in a seamless and focused manner. Penson already services its North American and Pan-European clients with a range of leading-edge, proprietary technology solutions, including the Omni Pro trading platform from ITS. Omni Pro, a direct access trading solution offering real-time market data, instant Level II access, intelligent order routing, and advanced order types and back-office administration tools, is currently in use by Penson clients.

Stoop commented: “Nexa’s products are widely compatible with Penson’s existing set of technology solutions. Whereas technologies such as ITS’s Omni Pro solution is focused on the high-end active trader from institutional and proprietary trading firms, Nexa provides a broader spectrum of capabilities aimed at the less active trader. The combination of these software solutions adds true value and greater choice to Penson’s client base. The net result will be improved efficiencies and reduced costs across the board.”

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**Notes to Editors – Penson Background Information**

1. Penson provides execution, clearing, settlement and custody services to broker dealers and private client asset managers in US, Canada and UK.
2. Penson is one of the top three largest clearers in each of its home markets - globally it handles between 500,000 and 900,000 trades a day and holds over USD 4.7 bn customer assets in custody in the US, and USD 3.4bn in Canada.

**About Penson Worldwide: [www.penson.com](http://www.penson.com)**

Penson Worldwide, Inc. is the holding company for Penson Financial Services, Inc., Penson Worldwide Settlements, Ltd., Penson Financial Services Canada, Inc., and Penson Financial Futures, Inc. The Penson Worldwide group of companies provides clearing, custody, and settlement services in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Europe for broker/dealers trading in securities and financial futures, including single stock futures, and fixed income products. Penson Financial Services, Inc., headquartered in Dallas, Texas, has served the clearing needs of all types of broker/dealers since 1995.

Penson Financial Services, Inc. is a member of the Chicago Stock Exchange, NASD, Inc. and SIPC. Penson Financial Services Canada, Inc. is regulated by the Investment Dealers Association of Canada, and is a member of the CIPF. Penson Worldwide Settlements, Ltd. is a member of the London Stock Exchange and is regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Penson Financial Futures, Inc. is a Futures Clearing Merchant member of the National Futures Association.

**About Nexa Technologies: [www.nexatechnologies.com](http://www.nexatechnologies.com)**

Nexa Technologies, Inc. has been at the forefront of the online brokerage industry since 1999. Specializing in direct access brokerage technology, Nexa provides a complete online brokerage solutions including multi-lingual level II, browser based trading and back-office tools.

**About Integrated Trading Systems: [www.integratedtrading.com](http://www.integratedtrading.com)**

Integrated Trading Solutions, Inc. provides financial technology solutions to institutional, retail, and automated traders (black box trading). Its proprietary trading software supports exceptionally fast and reliable executions to all major U.S., Canadian, and European sources of liquidity. In combination with comprehensive decision support tools, you can now take advantage of one of the world's most sophisticated direct access trading platforms and exchange gateways. The company also offers complete market data solutions and back office/risk management tools allowing for unprecedented real-time analysis and flexibility.