

PATINO ASSOCIATES

Media Inquiries:

For Patino Associates
Sean Healy
Healy Corporate Communications
(201) 857-2520
sean@healycorp.com

For VMA Group
Shelly Facius
PR Manager
VMA Group
+44 (0) 7802 753653
sfacius@vmagroup.co.uk

PATINO ASSOCIATES ENTERS INTO STRATEGIC ALLIANCE WITH VMA GROUP TO CREATE MULTINATIONAL EXECUTIVE SEARCH FIRM

Alliance to focus on recruitment and placement of corporate communications professionals in the U.S. and Europe

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 25, 2010 -- Patino Associates, LLC, a leading executive search firm specializing in the corporate communications, public affairs, investor relations and marketing functions, today said it has signed an affiliate partnership agreement with VMA Group, Europe's top recruitment and executive search company dedicated to corporate communications. The alliance creates one of the largest global practices focused on the recruitment and placement of corporate communications professionals with experienced consultants in Washington, DC, London, Manchester and Brussels, and the goal of establishing operations across Europe, the Far East, Middle East and Australia over the next three years.

Since its founding in 2008, Patino Associates has expanded to the point where it serves a number of Fortune 500 companies. Having conducted senior-level searches on a national basis for some 10 years, Managing Director Michael Patino has become recognized as one of the preeminent recruiters in his field. After relaunching the Corporate Communications practice for Russell Reynolds Associates, Patino joined Spencer Stuart before founding his own firm.

Patino works with a variety of clients, ranging from global Fortune 500 corporations and start-up/high growth companies to trade associations and not-for-profit foundations and associations. He has conducted searches for clients in a wide range of industries - financial services, healthcare, energy, aerospace and defense, technology, manufacturing and consumer products and services.

"On behalf of our globally minded clients, it was important to us, that we found a partner whose knowledge of the marketplace and commitment to excellence in the strategy and execution of the search process rivaled our own," said Oskar Yasar, Managing Director, VMA International. "We

feel that Michael and his team at Patino Associates bring the knowledge, experience and pedigree that will be valued and sought after by our clients. We look forward to a long and productive alliance.”

Commenting on the new relationship, Patino said, “With the continued globalization of the communications discipline, the demand for trusted and knowledgeable recruiters who can quickly identify and assess talent on a global basis is becoming more acute. Patino Associates is pleased to team up with VMA Group, with the goal of providing truly global recruitment capability for our clients.”

About VMA Group

VMA Group is Europe’s leading executive search and recruitment company specializing in the permanent recruitment of Corporate Communications, Internal Communications, PR Agency, Investor Relations and Public Affairs professionals across all industry sectors. With a 30-year history and a highly credible reputation, we are perfectly placed to meet the needs of the market leaders in their respective sectors.

Over the past three years, VMA Group’s offices in London and Manchester have grown to a team of 60 employees and the company has market-leading positions in nearly all of its sectors, including Corporate Communications, Internal Communications and Investor Relations.

For further information on VMA Group or VMA Search please go to www.vmagroup.com or www.vmasearch.co.uk

About Patino Associates

Patino Associates is a boutique search firm specializing in the recruitment of executives in corporate communications, public affairs and marketing across all industries. Based in the Washington, DC area, Patino Associates focuses primarily on Senior Vice President/Vice President and Director level searches for clients seeking to lead corporate communications, public relations, media relations, international communications, internal/employee communications, marketing communications, financial communications, investor relations, public affairs or government relations.

With nearly 10 years of experience in executive recruiting, Michael Patino has worked with a variety of clients from global Fortune 500 corporations to start-up/high growth companies to trade associations to not-for-profit foundations and associations. He has conducted searches for clients from a wide range of industries - financial services, healthcare, energy, aerospace and defense, technology, manufacturing and consumer products and services.

For further information on Patino Associates please go to www.patinoassociates.com or contact Michael Patino at (703) 293-6333 or michael@patinoassociates.com.

