

## PRESS RELEASE

### optegra enjoys increase in demand from German SMEs for international auditing and tax consulting



Focus on SMEs, cross-border tax consulting and auditing – more employees in Cologne - complicated legislation makes more consulting services necessary

COLOGNE, February 11, 2009 - optegra, an auditing, tax and management consulting group, has seen constant growth in demand for cross-border tax consulting. "Demand for tax consulting and auditing among German companies will move more into the limelight in future as a result of increasing inter-nationalization and complex legislation." explained Stephan Neubauer, one of optegra's co-founders. "Our customers benefit from our focus on German SMEs' consulting requirements, and also from our international network and expertise in international taxation."

The Cologne-based group believes that one of the reasons for the continued high demand for tax consulting is the sluggish implementation of international standards. At the start of the year, one of the key factors is for companies to take into account the numerous new standards and provisions. "Right now, the current mood on the financial markets and the related discussions have put these issues on a back burner," explained Johannes Nölke, one of optegra's co-founders and fund specialist. "However, transparency on the part of the companies is one of the most important factors on which investors and market players base their decisions."

optegra accommodates its clients' needs for advice. As a result, the company is consistently increasing its strategic alliances with well-known partners in Europe, Asia and America in the so-called Norton International Services Network.

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At present, optegra already employs more than 50 specialists and partners in its Cologne office. "We plan to once again increase the number of our specialists in Germany substantially over the next one to two years," commented Stephan Neubauer on optegra's plans for expansion.

### **The Company**

optegra is an owner-managed, international group of companies engaged in auditing, tax consulting, management consulting and funds service and is headquartered in Cologne. optegra's industry specialists offer unconventional, forward looking solutions. Its customers receive tailor-made, end-to-end consulting services at eye level. That allows them to use economic advantages in competition and focus on their own core competences. A global network of experienced auditors, tax advisors and consultants makes optegra the first port of call for SMEs.

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