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## **PROMONTORY TO AID BANKS AFFECTED BY HURRICANE KATRINA**

**ARLINGTON, VA (Sept. 7, 2005)** – Promontory Interfinancial Network today announced that it would waive its sign-up fees, as well as transaction fees, until October 12, 2005, for banks in Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi recovering from Hurricane Katrina.

These banks can join the Network at no cost and then can offer up to \$20 million of Federal deposit insurance coverage to their customers at no charge through the Network's CDARS service.

Banks in the Gulf tri-state area that are currently members of the Network will also be able to make CDARS transactions at no charge.

Affected banks can receive one-on-one attention by calling Steve Kinner, Promontory's head of sales, at (703) 292-3445, or Beth Pile, head of client services, at (302) 258-5239. A dedicated account executive will then work with each bank.

Banks can use CDARS for CDs with maturities ranging from four weeks to three years.

"These steps should ease at least some of the pressures on banks affected by Hurricane Katrina as they begin recovering from the crisis," said Eugene A. Ludwig, Chairman of Promontory. "We want to do our part, and offering CDARS at no charge for coverage of up to three years should help."

CDARS – pronounced "cedars" – is short for the Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service.

To offer CDARS, a deposit placement service, a bank must be a member of the Promontory Network, a nationwide network of 1,000 banks. When a customer places a large deposit with a Network member, the bank arranges for the placement of funds into certificates of deposit issued by other Network banks, in increments of less than \$100,000 to ensure that both principal and interest are eligible for full FDIC protection. Deposits placed through CDARS meet the pass-through insurance coverage guidelines established by the FDIC.

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