

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Cara Sloman
Nadel Phelan, Inc.
831.440.2411
cara@nadelphelan.com
www.nadelphelan.com

Philip Kranenburg
Virtual Purchase Connection
510.263.1004
pkranenburg@virtualpurchaseconnection.com
www.virtualpurchaseconnection.com

**Virtual Purchase Connection Secures
\$20 MM in Second Round Financing**

Investment to Fuel Launch of Business e-Payment Solution

ALAMEDA, Calif.—February 27, 2001—Virtual Purchase Connection (VPC), a provider of e-payment solutions for businesses, today announced that it has closed its \$20 million second round of funding led by LabMorgan the e-finance unit of J.P. Morgan Chase and including Wells Fargo Bank and Plantagenet Capital Management.

In conjunction with this financing, VPC announced the appointment of J.P. Morgan Chase's Arthur Magnus, Managing Director, Treasury & Security Services, and Christopher Ahearn, Director of Strategic Development, LabMorgan to the VPC Board of Directors.

VPC plans to use the funding to scale and launch a payment solution that solves the fundamental problem slowing the growth of e-commerce for small and mid-sized companies – the spontaneous, electronic payment for goods and services between business buyers and on-line merchants.

“VPC has developed a payment service that enables financial institutions to give buyers and sellers the confidence to transact large volumes of business on-line,” said Christopher Ahearn, Director of Strategic Development, LabMorgan, the e-finance unit of J.P. Morgan Chase. “ We are pleased to be a lead investor in a

company with a compelling business model that leverages incumbent financial institutions strengths and security whilst enhancing the on-line advancement of this multi-billion dollar market.”

“Securing our second round of funding is a testament to the uniqueness of our technology, the exciting prospects for our company and the ability of an experienced team to execute our Internet payment strategy,” said Alan Holroyde, chairman and CEO of Virtual Purchase Connection. “We now have the financial backing from top notch partners and the necessary executive team in to compete in today's e-commerce environment.”

About J. P. Morgan Chase:

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. (NYSE: JPM, www.jpmorganchase.com) is a premier global financial services firm with assets in excess of \$705 billion and operations in over 60 countries. The firm is a leader in investment banking, asset management, private equity, consumer banking, private banking, e-finance, and custody and processing services. Headquartered in New York, J.P. Morgan Chase serves 32 million consumer customers and over 5,000 corporate, institutional, and government clients.

About LabMorgan:

LabMorgan (www.labmorgan.com) is the e-finance engine of J.P. Morgan Chase. The Lab's purpose is to find, nurture, invest in, use, and help to commercialize e-finance initiatives that will transform J.P. Morgan Chase and the financial services industry. LabMorgan has access to the full range of J.P. Morgan Chase's resources including more than 32 million customers around the world and a prestigious brand, as well as unparalleled expertise based on more than 200 years of experience in finance. LabMorgan is the premier partner for accelerating ideas in e-finance.

About Virtual Purchase Connection :

Virtual Purchase Connection (VPC) provides an innovative B2B electronic purchasing solution that resolves the fundamental problem slowing the growth of B2B e-commerce – the spontaneous, electronic payment for goods and services between business buyers and on-line merchants. VPC is a payment utility that provides safety, privacy, speed, certainty,

controls and comprehensive reporting to satisfy the rigorous needs of businesses. VPC's Merchant Toolkit Software quickly integrates into commerce engines on UNIX® and Windows NT™ platforms to enable secure electronic identification, authorization and transaction settlement. VPC is headquartered in Alameda, CA at 1420 Harbor Bay Parkway Alameda, CA 94502 (Tel. 510.263.1000). VPC can be reached on the Web at <http://www.virtualpurchaseconnection.com/>.

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