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Press Release

NYSE – OPY

Oppenheimer Holdings Inc.

Second Quarter 2008 Earnings and Dividend Announcement

July 30, 2008

Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars, except share and per share amounts	Three Months ended June 30,		Six Months ended June 30,	
(unaudited)	2008	2007	2008	2007
Revenue	$256,241	$226,750	$488,116	$440,866
Expenses	$254,056	$198,864	$512,719	$384,798
Profit (loss) before taxes	$2,185	$27,886	$(24,603)	$56,068
Net profit (loss)	$1,646	$15,766	$(14,468)	$32,556
Basic earnings (loss) per share	$0.12	$1.19	$(1.07)	$2.48
Diluted earnings (loss) per share	$0.12	$1.16	$(1.07)	$2.43
Weighted average number of shares outstanding	13,508,262	13,213,663	13,567,150	13,125,172
Book value per share	$32.94	$30.17		
Actual number of Class A non-voting and Class B shares outstanding	13,340,094	13,233,630		

The Company's financial results are presented using accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S.A.

Oppenheimer Holdings Inc. reported net profit of $1.6 million or $0.12 per share for the second quarter of 2008, compared to $15.8 million or $1.19 per share in the second quarter of 2007. Revenue for the second quarter of 2008 was $256.2 million, compared to revenue of $226.8 million in the second quarter of 2007.

The net loss for the six months ended June 30, 2008 was $14.5 million or $1.07 per share compared to a net profit of $32.6 million or $2.48 per share in the first half of 2007. Revenue for the six months ended June 30, 2008 was $488.1 million, an increase of 11% compared to $440.9 million for the same period in 2007.

The Company's results for the three and six months ended June 30, 2008 were impacted by the current economic environment, as well as by its acquisition on January 14, 2008 of a major part of CIBC World Markets' U.S. Capital Markets Businesses. The acquired businesses (including the operating results related to businesses to be acquired in the UK and Asia) along with the Company's existing Investment Banking, Corporate Syndicate, Institutional Sales and Trading and Equities Research divisions were combined to form the Oppenheimer Investment Banking Division (OIB Division).

Albert (Bud) Lowenthal, Chairman and CEO, commented on the results for the quarter: "The dramatic turnaround from a significant loss in the first quarter to a nominal profit in the second quarter is extremely gratifying and shows the strength of our franchise, although on a comparative basis with 2007, we are disappointed in our earnings performance. Conditions in the securities markets remained quite stressed in the period with equity markets down 8% and credit markets remaining seized in many asset classes. Oppenheimer continues to be free of asset write-downs of any significance from proprietary trading and does not anticipate any major issues in this regard going forward.

While the results of our Capital Markets business remain quite disappointing due to the environment, we did see some increase in investment banking activity in the second quarter and our activity levels in secondary market sales and trading remained quite good. Leverage finance activity related to new issuance remains moribund, although there was some pick-up during the period in the trading markets for leveraged loans, and issuance by clients in the equity and debt markets remained at significantly reduced levels due to the lack of receptivity by investors.

The OIB business remained burdened with transition costs, which we anticipate will be significantly reduced by the time we enter the fourth quarter of 2008. Our plans to fully complete the transition of the business should be accomplished by that time.

We continue to believe that the long-term benefit of this acquisition will be substantial but do not foresee a quick return to profitability for the enlarged Capital Markets business, given the state of the markets and of the U.S. economy. Oppenheimer's liquidity remains strong allowing us to repurchase shares during the quarter as well as continue to pay down long term debt. We do not anticipate any need for additional capital to be raised in the near future either through the issuance of debt or equity. We will continue to manage our business for the long term with a close control of costs and risks within our business.

Our Private Client Business continues to be quite healthy with strong financial advisor retention, and the attraction of experienced new financial advisors as well as new clients to our enhanced platform."

The three and six months ended June 30, 2008 were marked by an extremely volatile market environment, with investors focused on record high oil and food prices, a weak U.S. dollar, liquidity problems in the credit markets and wide-spread asset write-downs. The U.S. economy appears to be in a recession brought on by the uncertainties mentioned above. Intervention by the U.S. Treasury and the U.S. Federal Reserve in the credit markets through their support of investment banks, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will hopefully continue to bolster confidence, to offset the severe decline in housing prices and shorten the time to economic recovery.

Revenues for the OIB Division, approximately $70.2 million and $125.0 million, respectively, for the three and six months ended June 30, 2008, were substantially less (approximately 48% and 53%, respectively) than the comparable fiscal period last year on a pro-forma combined basis, due to significantly reduced investment banking activity. As previously reported, the results of the OIB Division will be tracked for the five years following the acquisition for purposes of determining payments that may be due to CIBC as part of the purchase price.

Commissions for the three and six months ended June 30, 2008 increased 33% and 37%, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2007 primarily as a result of the acquired businesses. For the three and six months ended June 30, 2008, 29% and 32%, respectively, of total commissions were generated by the OIB Division's institutional equity business. Proprietary trading results increased 60% and 42%, respectively, for the three and six months ended June 30, 2008 compared to the same periods in 2007, with much of the increase attributable to the acquired businesses, although preferred and corporate trading showed significant increases for the period.

Advisory fees increased 3% and 7%, respectively, for the three and six months ended June 30, 2008 compared to the same periods in 2007, primarily as a result of increased fees from money market funds. During the period, the Company introduced a FDIC insured bank sweep product that has been well accepted by clients and will show increasing profitability over the next several fiscal periods. Assets under management by the asset management group decreased 5% to $16.4 billion at June 30, 2008 compared to $17.3 billion at June 30, 2007, due to declining market values despite the fact that the number of client accounts under management increased 7% at June 30, 2008 compared to June 30, 2007. Included in assets under management at June 30, 2008 were approximately $13.9 billion in assets under the Company's fee-based programs ($15.3 billion at June 30, 2007).

Net interest revenue decreased by 58% in both the three and six months ended June 30, 2008 compared to the same periods of 2007, due primarily to falling interest rates over the periods and reduced levels of client margin borrowing. On April 28, 2008, the Company repaid $20.0 million of its senior secured credit note, thereby reducing its outstanding indebtedness under the senior secured credit note to $63.0 million.

The Company's expenses for the three and six months ended June 30, 2008 increased 28% and 33%, respectively, compared to the same periods of 2007, primarily due to the effect of the Company's recent acquisition. Acquisition related expenses included accrued expenses of $12.4

million and $27.7 million, respectively, for the three and six months ended June 30, 2008 for future payments of deferred incentive compensation to former CIBC employees for awards made by CIBC prior to the January 14, 2008 acquisition by the Company. Such payments will decline to $7.0 million in the fourth quarter 2008 and continue to significantly decline in subsequent periods.Transition service charges of $9.8 million and $20.6 million, respectively, in the three and six months ended June 30, 2008 to be paid to CIBC for interim support of the acquired businesses which will terminate upon the transition of those businesses to Oppenheimer's platform, which is anticipated in the third quarter of 2008, resulting in substantially reduced costs (with estimated savings of $2 million per month).

Compensation expense for the period was substantially affected by the acquisition, due to the addition of approximately 500 employees. Overall, in the three months ended June 30, 2008, compensation costs increased 25% compared to the same period of 2007. Offsetting the increase in compensation expense for the three and six months ended June 30, 2008 was a decrease in share-based compensation costs compared to the same periods in 2007. For the three and six months ended June 30, 2008, clearing and exchange fees increased 109% and 113%, respectively, due to increased transaction volumes associated with the acquired business. Communications and technology costs and occupancy costs increased 51% and 45%, respectively, in the three months ended June 30, 2008 and 38% and 40%, respectively, in the six months ended June 30, 2008 compared to the same periods in 2007, primarily to support the OIB Division.

At June 30, 2008, shareholders' equity was approximately $439.4 million and book value per share was $32.94 compared to shareholders' equity of approximately $399 million and book value per share of $30.17 at June 30, 2007. The basic weighted average number of Class A and Class B Shares outstanding for the three months ended June 30, 2008 was 13,508,262 compared to 13,213,663 outstanding for the three months ended June 30, 2007, an increase of 2% due primarily to the exercise of stock options and vesting of stock awards in the fourth quarter of 2007 and the first quarter of 2008 which was offset by the cancellation of Class A Shares purchased pursuant to the Issuer Bid in the second quarter of 2008. The diluted weighted average number of Class A and Class B Shares outstanding for the three months ended June 30, 2008 was 13,649,203 compared to 13,543,221 outstanding for the three months ended June 30, 2007, a net increase of 1%. The actual number of Class A and Class B Shares outstanding at June 30, 2008 was 13,340,094 shares.

During the second quarter of 2008, the Company purchased and cancelled 308,976 Class A Shares (at an average price of $30.54 per share) pursuant to an Issuer Bid, which expires on August 8, 2008. In accordance with its policy, the Company does not purchase its shares pursuant to the Issuer Bid from the end of the fiscal quarter until after the earnings release.

Dividend

The Company today announced a quarterly dividend of U.S. $0.11 per share, payable on August 29, 2008 to holders of Class A and Class B Shares of record on August 15, 2008.

Oppenheimer, through its principal subsidiaries, Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. (a U.S. broker-dealer) and Oppenheimer Asset Management Inc., offers a wide range of investment banking, securities, investment management and wealth management services from 86 offices in 21 states and through local broker-dealers in 3 foreign jurisdictions. OPY Credit Corp. offers syndication as well as trading of issued corporate loans. Oppenheimer employs over 3,300 people.

Oppenheimer offers trust and estate services through Oppenheimer Trust Company. Evanston Financial Corporation is engaged in mortgage brokerage and servicing. In addition, through its subsidiary, Freedom Investments, Inc. and the BUYandHOLD division of Freedom, Oppenheimer offers online discount brokerage and dollar-based investing services.

This press release includes certain "forward-looking statements" relating to anticipated future performance. For a discussion of the factors that could cause future performance to be different than anticipated, reference is made to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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