

PRESS RELEASE

BRILL ACADEMIC PUBLISHERS ACQUIRES IDC PUBLISHERS

Leiden, 11 November 2005. Brill Academic Publishers announces that it reached agreement with the shareholders of IDC Publishers, based in Leiden, the Netherlands, to acquire all of IDC's shares and business activities. The acquisition comprises all publication rights to well over 3 million pages of primary source documents stored on microfiche and microfilm, as well as a number of online databases.

With this acquisition Brill reinforces its market position as a leading information supplier to academic libraries and researchers in a number of specialized areas of scholarship, in particular Religion, History, Art History, Middle Eastern Studies, Asian Studies, Jewish Studies, International Law, Slavic Studies and Biology. IDC's publications, which in 2005 represented total sales of approximately 2,5 million euros, offer a valuable addition to Brill's current publication program of books, journals and online products in existing niche markets. In the past Brill has already successfully cooperated with IDC on the publication of a complete edition of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

IDC's thematic primary source collections contain unique materials, such as rare books and archival documents from libraries and archives around the world. The sources are essential tools for researchers in the humanities and the social sciences. For Brill this acquisition is a strategic asset of great importance in an emerging marketplace where text, context, image, sound and software become increasingly valuable elements of a scholarly information offer, particularly when integrated.

IDC's collections are produced in partnership with a wide range of leading academic and nonprofit organizations, including the British Library, Yale University, National Library of Russia, New York Public Library, World Bank, the Royal Library of the Netherlands, and Amnesty International. The millions of pages of text contained in IDC's collections are particularly suited for digitization and online publication. All new publications are being digitally captured and stored while making use of state-of-the-art technology. This makes it possible to publish this content both in digital and analog media, and through publishing-on-demand.

The acquisition will largely be paid in cash and possibly for a small amount in shares. Due diligence will take place in the coming weeks. Brill's management aims to complete the transaction by 1 January 2006, and expects that the acquisition will contribute to the profit per share already in 2006.

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Brill Academic Publishers, listed on Euronext Amsterdam NV is a publishing house with a strong international focus and founded in 1683. The company focuses on the fields of Ancient Near East and Egypt; Middle East, Asian and Islamic Studies; Medieval and Early Modern Studies; Biblical and Religious Studies; Classical Studies; Social Sciences; Science and Biology; Human Rights and Public International Law.

The predominantly English-language publications consist primarily of (book)series, encyclopaedias and journals. In principle these publications will be available in print and electronic form. Brill's principal markets are Europe, the United States and Japan. The majority of the customers are academic institutions and university libraries.