

Equities First Holdings Receives DFM's Approval as the First Registered Repo Buyer

- **Maryam Fikri: "The new service enables investors to access liquidity through OTC repos, driving further trading activity"**
- **Al Christy, Jr.: "EFH's approval as a provider of Repo transactions offers tremendous opportunity to investors looking to appropriately leverage their holdings and grow"**

Dubai, 29 April 2018; In a first step of its kind amongst regional markets, Dubai Financial Market (DFM) today announced it has granted Equities First Holdings, LLC (EFH), a global lender and a leader in shareholder financing solutions, an approval to provide Repurchase (Repo) transactions.

The nod permits EFH to provide Repo services on the market in line with the regulations of both the Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA) and DFM.

This significant step empowers investors' access to liquidity without forfeiting future growth opportunities.

A Repo, or repurchase agreement, is a financial instrument in which a Repo buyer provides capital to a Repo seller collateralised by the seller's securities. After a fixed period of time, the seller has the opportunity to repurchase the securities used as collateral from the buyer at a set price agreed upon at the beginning of the transaction.



Maryam Fikri, Chief Operations Officer (COO) and Head of Clearing, Settlement and Depository Division of DFM said: “We are pleased to license the first Repo provider in a momentous development that further strengthens DFM’s leading position in the region. The new service underlines our constant efforts to identify new opportunities for investors in line with DFM’s strategy 2021 to further diversify market products and services. Through the Repo transactions, DFM investors can release part of the value of their securities through an OTC repo with the lending company, which in turn can trade them on the market leading to further improvement in trading activity.”

“As an emerging market, the UAE, and the Dubai Financial Market specifically, has been part of EFH’s ongoing growth plan for several years,” said EFH Founder and CEO Al Christy, Jr. “Currently, there is a need to enhance market liquidity, and EFH’s approval as a provider of Repo transactions offers tremendous opportunity to businesses and investors looking to appropriately leverage their holdings and grow.”

“Potential demand for this product and for EFH’s services within the DFM is expected to be immense,” said Andrew Stevens, the director of EFH sales in the Middle East. “I look forward to continuing to develop relationships in the market and working with individuals and businesses looking to access liquidity.”

EFH will immediately commence executing transactions with clients, and as a Registered Repo Buyer (RRB) in the DFM, and will continue to adhere to all regulatory requirements set forth by the DFM and its regulatory body.

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About Dubai Financial Market: Dubai Financial Market (DFM) was established as a public institution with its own independent corporate body. DFM operates as a secondary market for the trading of securities issued by public shareholding companies, bonds issued by the Federal Government or any of the local Governments and public institutions in the country, units of investment funds and any other financial instruments, local or foreign, which are accepted by the market. The DFM commenced operations on March 26, 2000 and became the first Islamic Shari'a-compliant exchange globally since 2007. Following its initial public offering in November 2006, when DFM offered 1.6 billion shares, representing 20 per cent of its paid-up capital of AED 8 Billion, DFM became a public joint stock company and its shares were listed on 7 March 2007 with the trading symbol (DFM). Following the IPO, the Government of Dubai retained the remaining 80 per cent of DFM Company through Borse Dubai Limited. www.dfm.ae

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About Equities First Holdings: Since 2002, Equities First Holdings, LLC has provided clients with innovative financing solutions, supplying capital against publicly traded stock to enable clients to meet their personal and professional financial goals. EFH provides capital against shares traded on public exchanges around the world while offering clients competitive loan-to-value rates and low costs of capital. Over the past 5 years, EFH has completed more than 500 transactions and deployed more than \$1.6 billion (USD) to clients across the globe. EFH is a global company with offices in 10 countries, including wholly owned subsidiaries Equities First (London) Limited, Equities First Holdings Hong Kong Limited, Equities First Holdings Singapore Limited, and Equities First Holdings (Australia) Pty Ltd. For more information, visit, www.equitiesfirst.com.

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