

Chuck Troe Designated to Become Board Member of the Southern California Biomedical Council (SoCalBio)

LOS ANGELES, July 2007 – Chuck Troe, Senior Managing Director of West Ridge Associates, LLC, a leading middle market investment banking firm located in Los Angeles, has been designated to become a member of the Board of Directors of SoCalBio. SoCalBio and the Life Science Industry Council (“LINC”) recently announced that they will merge the two industry service organizations. The combined organizations will serve the medical technology, life science and biotech industries in Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. A long time member of the Board of Directors of LINC and Chair of LINC’s Program Committee, Chuck was instrumental in facilitating the merger of the two groups.

Alfred E. Mann, Chairman of SoCalBio, stated that “We can become even more effective if we work as one community to promote and grow this vibrant cluster of life-science commercialization activities. Together, we will have more resources and strength to overcome some of the challenges facing the industry. . . .” Richard W. Henson, Chairman of LINC, commented that “The combined resources and broadened geographic scope of SoCalBio and LINC will be a significant force in facilitating the growth of the industry, the economic benefits to the region and most importantly, the improved health and quality of life that result from the technologies and products created by an industry that has the opportunity to do good while doing well.

Chuck Troe has completed many transactions for clients in the medical technology and healthcare industries and has been active in a number of organizations that serve those industries, including as a member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Audit Committee of Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor UCLA Medical Center.

WEST RIDGE ASSOCIATES, LLC provides merger and acquisition, corporate finance and related investment banking services at the highest level of quality, professionalism and integrity. The firm supports established middle market businesses, earlier stage companies with high growth potential, and commercialization stage companies in all industries.