



BSE SME Exchange Platform commence operations

****BCB Finance Ltd – the first Indian SME to get listed on BSE SME ****

****The platform will provide new investment avenues for market participants and investors****

Mumbai 13th March, 2012: Marked by a well-attended bell-ringing ceremony, BSE Ltd. today launched operations of its SME Exchange platform with the first listing ceremony of BCB Finance Ltd., in the presence of Shri R K Mathur, Secretary, MSME, Gol. Shri Rajeev Agarwal, Whole Time Member, SEBI, and Shri C S Mohapatra, Adviser (FSDC), DEA, MoF.

Last September SEBI had granted permission to BSE to launch SME Exchange to offer a platform to small and medium companies to raise capital.

BSE SME platform has been developed after studying the salient features, best practices and the business model of similar global existing Exchanges. The listing norms have been extremely simplified and made convenient for SMEs compared to listing norms on the main board.

In the past few months, BSE SME has conducted several Seminars for educating the SMEs on the benefits of listing and the preparations required for listing on the BSE SME Platform across India. BSE SME has tied up with channel partners who include various institutions and associations engaged in the development of SMEs.

Speaking at the ceremony, Shri R K Mathur, Secretary, MSME, Gol., said, “MSME department has been looking forward to this platform. Great efforts have been put in by BSE and we deeply appreciate the same. SEBI has also been supportive throughout. I heartily congratulate BCB Finance Ltd. to be the first company to get listed on BSE SME Platform. We are committed to do our bit to make this initiative a success.”

Shri Rajeev Agarwal, Whole Time Member, SEBI, said, “This launch will play important role in Indian SMEs growth. As a regulator, several regulations have been eased, at the same time, robust surveillance mechanism has been put in place. Investor protection will remain prime important. My heartiest congratulations to BSE and BCB Finance Ltd. for this ambitious initiative.”

Shri Madhu Kannan, MD&CEO, BSE, added, “This is a significant event in the history of BSE. I am extremely delighted to actually see this happening. SMEs are building blocks of the economy and the capital markets have great potential to tap opportunities and help this sector grow. BSE SME platform will be a committed partner to MSMEs to transform ideas into big companies. We are grateful to the support received from the Gol and SEBI.”

Shri C S Mohapatra, Adviser (FSDC), DEA, MoF, who was also present at the ceremony stated, “I am pleased to be present at this historic place on a historic moment like today’s. This is a big contribution to the country where SMEs play a crucial role but face difficulties in raising capital for their potential businesses. BSE has helped SMEs to expand through this platform. This is an effective way to improve financial inclusion.”

For more info log onto: www.bsesme.com

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NSE launches “EMERGE” – SME Platform

The National Stock exchange today announced the launch of its SME platform. The new platform will be called “EMERGE”, as it symbolises the aspirations of a large number of entrepreneurs actively participating in the India growth story and having the potential to unlock value and emerge on a bigger stage. It will also provide investors with exciting opportunities to invest in growing businesses. EMERGE has the potential to significantly improve access to risk capital for emerging companies.

Mr. Ravi Narain, MD & CEO, of NSE said “Globally, junior platforms have succeeded by coordinated efforts of exchanges, merchant bankers and investors including angel investors and VC/PE community. We are confident that India today has all the ingredients for the platform to become an engine of growth for deserving companies to raise capital in an efficient manner ”

Ms. Chitra Ramkrishna, Jt. Managing Director, NSE said “issuers may opt for either call auction or continuous market depending on the investor profile. NSE will also encourage issuers to undertake certain voluntary standards for improved governance and transparency”.

Head of the SME project at NSE, Mr. Ravi Tyagi said “We have actively engaged with all the stakeholders and we hope that different classes of investors will see this as an opportunity to invest in companies having promising business models.

Continuous engagement and collaboration with all stakeholders is imperative for the long term success of the SME platform and we are committed to devoting effort and resources towards that. Merchant bankers will play a very important role in the success of ‘EMERGE’.”