

## PRESS RELEASE

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### HQ Direct to merge with HQ Bank

**HQ intends to merge HQ Direct with HQ Bank. HQ Direct is one of the largest players on the Nordic Exchange and offers direct market access to a large number of leading global stock exchanges.**

The operation, which was acquired on October 22, complements HQ Bank's existing business in investment banking, and will lead to an expanded product offering and an extended customer base in Sweden and abroad.

The merger will result in a number of synergies, including IT and business integration, while use of the capital base will be optimized. Additionally, it will mean a less complex corporate and organizational structure.

"The merger will lead to additional cost synergies in administration and infrastructure and a further expansion of HQ Investment Banking's offering and revenue base," says Mikael König, President and CEO of HQ.

The merger is subject to approval by the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority.

As soon as possible after receiving this approval, HQ Direct will be consolidated in the HQ Investment Banking business area.

DMA-related activities will remain physically separated from all other business activities.

For further information:

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*HQ Bank AB utforskar, utvecklar och presterar i syfte att förädla förmögenheter och leverera finansiell framgång.*

*HQ Bank bedriver affärsverksamhet inom affärsområdena Investment Banking och Private Banking.*

*HQ Bank finns representerat på åtta orter i Sverige med huvudkontor beläget i Stockholm.*

*Moderbolaget HQ AB är noterat på Stockholmsbörsens Sv Mid Cap-lista (HQ).*