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**FINAL DRAFT FOR DISTRIBUTION:**

**GTCR Announces Agreement To Sell TransFirst To Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe  
For \$683 million**

**CHICAGO, May 14, 2007** – GTCR, a leading private equity firm, announced that it has entered into an agreement to sell TransFirst to Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe for \$683 million. TransFirst is a premiere provider of transaction processing services and payment enabling technologies. The company currently processes approximately \$25 billion in annual sales volume for more than 155,000 merchants and 965 financial institutions. Originally founded as ACS Merchant Services in 1995, GTCR partnered with TransFirst CEO Thomas Rouse to re-capitalize the company in 2000.

“We are very proud of our role as a partner to Tommy Rouse and the rest of the TransFirst management team during this exciting growth phase, including support of the company’s successful acquisition strategy,” said GTCR Principal Craig Bondy. “We have enjoyed an outstanding partnership with management, and the new relationship with Welsh, Carson represents an exciting new chapter in the TransFirst story.”

“I’d like to thank GTCR for their unwavering support in helping TransFirst become an industry leading company,” said TransFirst CEO Thomas Rouse. “We look forward to working with Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe to continue building on the legacy of our industry-recognized success.”

“TransFirst is a remarkable business in the rapidly changing transaction processing industry. Joining forces with the company’s top notch management team has been a tremendous success for GTCR. We wish the TransFirst team continued future success,” added GTCR Principal Barry Dunn.

“Welsh, Carson has a long and successful record in the merchant acquiring industry and we are excited by the prospect of partnering with the outstanding management team at TransFirst to continue to grow this enterprise both organically and through significant acquisitions over time,” said Eric J. Lee, a General Partner at WCAS.

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The financing for the transaction is being led by Merrill Lynch & Co. and Deutsche Bank Securities, both of whom acted as M&A advisors to Welsh, Carson.

The transaction is subject to customary regulatory review. TransFirst's legal counsel was provided by Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Legal counsel for Welsh, Carson was provided by Ropes & Gray LLP.

### **About GTCR**

Founded in 1980, GTCR Golder Rauner, LLC is a leading private equity investment firm and long-term strategic partner for outstanding management teams. The Chicago-based firm pioneered the investment strategy of identifying and partnering with exceptional executives to acquire and build companies through a combination of acquisitions and strong internal growth. GTCR currently manages more than \$8 billion of equity capital invested in a wide range of companies and industries. More information about GTCR can be found at [www.gtcr.com](http://www.gtcr.com).

### **About TransFirst**

A premier provider of transaction processing services and payment enabling technologies, TransFirst offers a first-rate suite of products and services and customized processing programs uniquely tailored for the special business needs of financial institutions, independent sales organizations and agents and its referral and reseller partners. Through its in-depth industry knowledge, partnership strategy and innovative solutions, TransFirst provides a specialized approach to transaction processing for healthcare providers, public entities, online and other non-traditional merchants, as well as brick and mortar retailers. Founded in 1995, TransFirst is a market leader in strategic mergers and acquisitions, which has allowed the company to gain significant market share and world-class expertise in growing and profitable industry segments. Built on a platform of personal service, customer commitment and flexible pricing, TransFirst is headquartered in Dallas, Texas, and has operations facilities in Louisville, Colo., Omaha, Neb., Kansas City, Kan., Newport Beach, Calif., and Milwaukee, Wis. Company wide, TransFirst currently processes approximately \$25 billion in annual sales volume for more than 155,000 merchants and more than 965 financial institutions. TransFirst can be reached at 1-800-745-2659 or at [www.transfirst.com](http://www.transfirst.com).

### **About Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe**

Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe is one of the largest and most successful private equity investment firms in the United States. Since its founding in 1979, it has organized 14 limited partnerships with total capital of over \$16 billion, investing in more than 165 companies and funding over 700 subsequent follow-on acquisitions. It is currently investing over \$4.7 billion of capital from an equity fund, Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe X, L.P., and WCAS Capital Partners IV, L.P., a dedicated subordinated debt fund. Welsh, Carson focuses its investment activity in two industries: information & business services and healthcare. See [www.welshcarson.com](http://www.welshcarson.com) to learn more.

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