

For Immediate Release

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**Sumitomo Corporation of America and Sumitomo Corporation  
Complete Investment in Tri-Artisan Capital Partners, LLC**

**New York, New York, October 14, 2004**—Sumitomo Corporation of America (SCOA) and its parent company Sumitomo Corporation (TSE:8053) today announced they have invested in Tri-Artisan Capital Partners, LLC (Tri-Artisan), a privately held merchant bank engaged in mergers and acquisitions, advisory and principal investment activities. The investment was completed on October 1, 2004.

Tri-Artisan advised SCOA in its successful acquisition of The Hartz Mountain Corporation from J.W. Childs in June of this year. It was through that collaboration SCOA began to explore investment discussions with Tri-Artisan.

“Our partnership and SCOA’s good working relationship with Tri-Artisan supports our efforts to identify investments in growing companies and industries as we continue

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expansion of our North American investment program. The breadth and depth of Tri-Artisan's banking professionals working in tandem with its operating executive network is an attractive differentiation for us," said Hiro Imura, Vice President, Business Investment Group, SCOA.

"We are delighted to welcome SCOA as a strategic investor in our Firm. The financial strength and global reach of our new partner will significantly enhance both our agency and principal investment activities by enabling our Firm to access SCOA's broad and deep operating, trading, financial and logistics resources for the transactions in which we are involved," said Gerald Cromack, Managing Director and Co-Managing Partner of Tri-Artisan.

Tri-Artisan ([www.tri-artisan.com](http://www.tri-artisan.com)), headquartered in New York City, provides advisory services relating to mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, corporate sales, restructuring transactions, recapitalizations and private placements across the industries in which it has collective financial and operating expertise.

Tri-Artisan's network of over 40 senior operating executive investors come from a cross-section of industry sectors including consumer/retailing, media, industrial, healthcare,

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technology and financial and business services. The firm also counts among its investors some of the leading U.S. and international private equity firms and financial institutions, which act as sources of financing for its principal investment activities.

Tri-Artisan also leverages the extensive expertise and reach of its financial professionals and operating executives to identify and develop proprietary private equity investment opportunities.

SCOA ([www.sumitomocorp.com](http://www.sumitomocorp.com)) was established in 1952 and is the largest wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Corporation. SCOA has North American offices in 10 major cities and over 30 subsidiaries in the United States. As an integrated global trading company with diversified investments and trading businesses, SCOA works closely with its parent as a financier and organizer of multinational projects.

Based in Tokyo, Sumitomo Corporation is one of the world's leading traders and distributors of commodities, industrial and consumer goods. Besides its role as a trading organization, Sumitomo Corporation is an investor in a wide array of businesses that position the company in markets with long-term potential. Sumitomo Corporation has offices in 73 countries and a consolidated staff of 31, 589. Visit [www.sumitomocorp.co.jp/english](http://www.sumitomocorp.co.jp/english) for more information.