

**Palladium Execution Premium Community™ (XPC) Grows with Sponsorship of Leading Software Firms**

*Microsoft, SAP, and SAS Sponsor Global Online Community of Strategy and Performance Management Practitioners*

**BOSTON, MA – January 5, 2010** – Palladium Group, Inc., the global leader in helping organizations execute their strategies by making better decisions, announced today that Microsoft Corporation (Nasdaq: MSFT), SAP AG (NYSE: SAP), and SAS Institute, Inc., are sponsors of the Palladium Execution Premium Community (XPC), the world's largest and most advanced online community of strategy and performance management practitioners.

Microsoft is the world's leading provider of software and services; SAP, the world's leading provider of business software\*; and SAS, the world's leading independent provider of business analytics software.

In addition to sponsoring the Palladium XPC, Microsoft, SAP, and SAS will contribute thought leadership and best practices to the online community.

Microsoft's Office of Finance will be contributing to XPC best practices pertaining to business performance management, finance process optimization, business risk management, and business productivity. Additionally, Bruno Aziza, Microsoft's worldwide business intelligence lead strategist, and Joey Fitts, global partner lead, in Microsoft's Information Worker Business Group—coauthors of *Drive Business Performance: Enabling a Culture of Intelligent Execution* (Wiley, 2008)—will be sharing key findings and case studies from recent research, including many from their forthcoming book, *Strategy 2.0*.

SAP will be contributing to XPC best practices its unique approach of tying its transaction platform with a leading set of management technologies that unify the currently disparate functions of business intelligence, information management, governance, risk, and compliance, and enterprise performance management. In addition, SAP will contribute content and strategic thinking to the XPC in part through the work of Stephanie Buscemi, vice president of marketing for enterprise performance management and governance, risk, and compliance, and co-author of *Driven to Perform: Risk-Aware Performance Management from Strategy through Execution* (Evolved Technologist Press, 2009).

SAS will be contributing content based in part on the work of Jonathan Hornby, global product marketing director and author of *Radical Action for Radical Times: Expert Advice for Creating Business Opportunity in Good or Bad Economic Times* (SAS, 2009); and Gary Cokins, global product marketing manager and author of *Performance Management: Integrating Strategy Execution, Methodologies, Risk, and Analytics* (Wiley, 2009).

"We are pleased that these three world-class software companies are sponsoring the Palladium Execution Premium Community," said Peter Ward, vice president, strategic relationships, Palladium Group, Inc. "The support of Microsoft, SAP, and SAS will enable us to reach further into the global strategy and performance management marketplace."

XPC features the world's most comprehensive and authoritative body of knowledge on strategy and performance management. Using advanced social networking functionality, XPC facilitates

24/7 peer-to-peer networking, offering discussion forums, best-practice sharing, benchmarking data, a solutions center, and an ask-the-expert capability. It provides print and multimedia case studies, articles, executive interviews, toolkits, videos, and e-learning courses developed by Palladium Group and Harvard Business Publishing.

To learn more about the Palladium Execution Community (XPC), or to see if you qualify for membership, visit <http://www.thepalladiumgroup.com/xpc>.

**About Palladium Group, Inc.**

Palladium Group is the global leader in helping organizations execute their strategies by making better decisions. Our expertise in strategy, risk, corporate performance management, and business intelligence helps clients achieve an execution premium. Our services include consulting, conferences, communities, training, and technology. Palladium's Balanced Scorecard Hall of Fame for Executing Strategy™, with a growing roster of more than 130 members, recognizes organizations worldwide that have achieved outstanding execution premiums. Visit [www.thepalladiumgroup.com](http://www.thepalladiumgroup.com).

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\*SAP defines business software as comprising enterprise resource planning, business intelligence, and related applications.

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