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## **First Tampa Bay Franchise Agreement With Engel & Voelkers Florida To Be Finalized This Friday**

### **Tampa Realtor Joins the Growing Ranks of Statewide Franchisees**

**Tampa, FL (May 3, 2007)** – Contracts for the first Tampa-based franchise for the rapidly expanding network of Engel & Voelkers Florida real estate offices will be signed here on Friday. Executives representing the Naples headquarters master franchise operation of Engel & Voelkers will meet with Tampa resident and real estate professional Michal J. Winiarek to finalize the agreement.

Plans for the new franchise include opening a nearly 1,800-square-foot real estate property shop in Hyde Park Village that will specialize in upscale residential listings. The boutique-style storefronts found in premier locations worldwide feature a white façade that identifies Engel & Voelkers Group affiliate offices worldwide. Each signature site offers an enticing atmosphere for buyers to browse real estate listings from around the globe as well as for sellers to list properties with experienced, professional realtors.

"I decided to become an Engel & Voelkers franchisee based on the highly polished brand image of the company. The presence of these offices in two dozen nations provides an excellent referral network and creates brand recognition in Florida for individuals visiting from overseas," said Winiarek. "Engel & Voelkers will attract the best sales associates who are able to take care of every homebuyer and seller with an unprecedented level of service. This company has the experience and resources to cater to the highest caliber of property owners and will surely make its mark on the discerning South Tampa market."

Winiarek is a longtime Tampa resident who received his bachelor of arts degree in economics from the University of South Florida. His career in real estate follows in his family's footsteps. Winiarek's grandfather and parents invested in real estate and his mother was a real estate agent. In addition to owning the Engel & Voelkers franchise, Winiarek and his wife are licensed real estate agents who own several investment properties.

Engel & Voelkers Florida, a highly respected name in upscale international real estate, recently announced the upcoming opening of its Naples office that will serve as statewide headquarters for the new master franchise operation that now encompasses the Tampa Bay area. The first franchise recently opened in Punta Gorda, marking the initial entry into Florida of one of the most prestigious real estate specialists in the world.

Engel & Voelkers Group's growing portfolio of global locations includes South Hampton, England, Ireland, Italy, Chile, Spain, Switzerland, South Africa and more. The Hamburg, Germany-based Engel & Voelkers Group represents a worldwide brand with hundreds of location in 26 countries and five continents. A new Engel & Voelkers property shop opens somewhere in the world every 100 hours.

More than 200 franchises are expected to open throughout Florida within the next decade, according to Timo Khammash, managing partner and head of franchise distribution for the Engel & Voelkers Florida headquarters office in Naples. Additional franchise locations opening in

Florida's Southwest and West Coast areas during the next few months include Cape Coral, Sarasota and Fort Myers.

Franchisees are immediately aligned with a strong, upscale brand that is prominent throughout major cities and distinguishes itself with highly personalized service. Specially designed training and sales systems, access to a prestigious international property market that offers 24/7 contact worldwide and a standardized, distinctive "shop concept" define and differentiate this prestigious real estate company.

**For information about franchise opportunities, contact Maddy Krasne at (813) 322-0128, (813) 785-4360, email [Maddy.Krasne@engelvoelkers.com](mailto:Maddy.Krasne@engelvoelkers.com) or go to [www.engelvoelkers.com/florida](http://www.engelvoelkers.com/florida).**

### **The Engel & Völkers Group**

The Engel & Völkers Group provides real estate brokerage services for both buyers and sellers, focusing on upscale residential and commercial properties in top locations worldwide. Engel & Völkers provides a proprietary buyer and seller system, advanced technology that connects property shops throughout the world and an academy that offers extensive training and support for their franchisees.

Engel & Völkers Group also publishes its own lifestyle and real estate magazine, known as GG Global Guide to Lifestyle, People & Real Estate. The glossy, quarterly publication focuses on luxury living, exclusive destinations and famous artists, designers and business leaders plus features magnificent Engel & Völkers listings from around the world.

Engel & Voelkers Florida serves as the master franchise headquarters for Florida, providing statewide support to franchisees to ensure they have all of the necessary tools and services they require to develop, manage and grow successful real estate agencies within a clearly defined sub-market.

### **MEDIA CONTACT for interviews, information or images:**

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