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Cape Coral, Fort Myers Areas Join the Growing Network of Engel & Voelkers Florida Real Estate Franchises

New Office Slated To Open In September

CAPE CORAL, FL (June 14, 2007) – A new Engel & Voelkers Florida franchise office will join the state's Southwest Florida real estate firms when it opens this fall in Cape Coral. Thomas Hopf, a licensed Florida REALTOR® for more than 10 years, is the franchisee owner of the newly announced addition to the Engel & Voelkers Florida network. The office will overlook one of the area's main thoroughfares, the Cape Coral Parkway.

The 900-square-foot site, currently under renovation at 1333-2 Cape Coral Parkway, will handle worldwide, upscale residential real estate transactions as well as specialize in representing properties and clients within the Cape Coral and Fort Myers areas. When fully staffed, the office will accommodate up to 20 real estate agents.

"I am very happy to be involved with Engel & Voelkers Florida because I believe it is a perfect fit for the Florida market," said Hopf. "Personally, I have made many investments in Florida real estate in addition to being involved with the real estate markets in Fort Myers and Cape Coral since 1990."

Hopf brings in-depth experience in financial markets as well as the banking industry to his latest business venture. After earning a business administration degree from the University of Heilbronn in Germany, he was awarded an MBA from the California Coast University in Santa Anna prior to completing the AMP Program at Harvard Business School.

Following his career as a marketing and credit manager for multinational companies with Citibank AG in Germany, Hopf joined Thomson Consumer Electronics Inc. first in Hannover, Germany and later in Indianapolis. From 1993 – 1996, Hopf was headquartered in Paris, serving as manager of financial services Europe for Thomson Multimedia S.A. As director of finance for a German-based investment company, he engaged in major real estate transactions, including one sale that was valued in excess of 1.4 billion euros. A former member of the executive board of RSE-AG, he served as its CEO until the company was sold last November.

"The additions of Thomas Hopf and the Cape Coral/Fort Myers markets to the Engel & Voelkers Florida network represent real assets that will provide strong leadership and a strategic foothold in the vital southwestern sector of the state," said Timo Khammash, managing partner of the Engel & Voelkers Florida headquarters office.

Engel & Voelkers Florida is a highly respected and long-established real estate company that specializes in upscale properties. Later this month, the statewide headquarters franchise operation office will open in Naples. In addition to the new office serving Cape Coral and Fort Myers, additional franchise agreements and openings are planned for Tampa, Fort Lauderdale, Naples, Bonita, Celebration, Miami and more.

Engel & Völkers, a longtime global leader in fine international estates, has recently expanded its global reach to the United States, beginning in the state of Florida. The Florida headquarters is part of the Engel & Völkers Group's growing portfolio of global locations that includes South Hampton, England, Ireland, Italy, Chile, Spain, Switzerland, South Africa and other locations. The Hamburg, Germany-based Engel & Völkers Group represents a worldwide brand with hundreds of real estate offices in 26 countries and five continents. A new Engel & Völkers Group property shop opens somewhere in the world every 100 hours.

For information about franchise opportunities, contact Timo Khammash at (941) 544-2829 or go to www.engelvoelkers.com/florida.

The Engel & Völkers Group

The Engel & Völkers Group was established more than 20 years ago in the western suburbs of Hamburg, Germany as a purely residential estate agency. Today the Engel & Völkers Group has achieved a leading position in the European market and a prominent position in the global luxury real estate market.

Engel & Völkers provides real estate brokerage services for both buyers and sellers, focusing on upscale residential and commercial properties in top locations worldwide. Its proprietary buyer and seller system offers advanced technology that connects property shops throughout the world. Extensive training and support is provided for all franchises.

Engel & Völkers Group also publishes its own lifestyle and real estate magazine, known as Grund Genug in Europe and GG in English-speaking countries. It focuses on luxury living, exclusive destinations and famous artists, designers and business leaders plus features magnificent Engel & Völkers properties 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.

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