



## **RISA Partners invests in Ashikaga Bank through acquisition of shares in Ashikaga Holdings**

**TOKYO, July 1, 2008** – RISA Partners, Inc. (“RISA Partners”) today announced that it had invested in The Ashikaga Bank, Ltd. (“Ashikaga Bank”) through an acquisition of shares of Ashikaga Holdings Co., Ltd. (“Ashikaga Holdings”). RISA Partners acquired shares in Ashikaga Holdings by making a capital investment in an investment limited partnership that is a member of the consortium holding shares in Ashikaga Holdings.

Ashikaga Holdings, which was established by a consortium led by Nomura Financial Partners Co., Ltd. and Next Capital Partners Co., Ltd., today acquired all of the shares of Ashikaga Bank from the Deposit Insurance Corporation of Japan. RISA Partners, by investing as a limited partner in an investment limited partnership established by Ashikaga Holdings shareholder Next Capital Partners Co., Ltd., has become an indirect investor in Ashikaga Holdings.

Ashikaga Bank, established in 1895, is a regional financial institution with an operating base primarily in Tochigi Prefecture, and has the highest levels of both deposits and loans of any regional bank in Japan. RISA Partners and Ashikaga Bank have been engaged in a business alliance since February 2006, through which they have been working together and combining business restructuring capabilities in the revitalization of local hot spring resort hotels.

Through the investment announced today, RISA Partners is aiming to promote further growth of both RISA Partners and Ashikaga Bank, enhancing the relationship between the two companies and contributing to regional economic development.

### **Outline of Ashikaga Bank** (as of March 31, 2008)

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| (1) Company name             | The Ashikaga Bank, Ltd.                                       |
| (2) Main business            | Ordinary banking operations                                   |
| (3) Date of establishment    | October 1, 1895   |
| (4) Location of headquarters | 1-25 Sakura 4-chome, Utsunomiya-shi, Tochigi Prefecture       |
| (5) President                | Satoru Fujisawa   |
| (6) Number of employees      | 2,120   |
| (7) Branch network           | 149 locations, including 98 main branches and 51 sub-branches |



RISA PARTNERS INC.

**Effect on financial results for the current fiscal year**

This acquisition will have no material impact on RISA Partners' financial results for the current fiscal year, and there is no change to RISA Partners' financial forecasts.

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