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INTERBEV GROUP ACQUIRES INVER HOUSE DISTILLERS LTD & BEST SPIRITS CO LTD

International Beverage Holdings Ltd (InterBev), the international arm of Southeast Asia's largest alcohol beverage company, Thai Beverages Plc (ThaiBev), has today (*Monday 30th October*) announced that it has acquired Pacific Spirits UK, owner of UK based Scotch Whisky Distiller, Inver House Distillers Ltd, and Best Spirits Company Ltd, the company's Hong Kong distributor.

Inver House and Best Spirits will now become wholly owned subsidiaries of InterBev. The move was anticipated following the successful IPO of ThaiBev in May of this year.

The deal in effect values both acquired companies at SGD 63.6m and will create a group with total estimated assets of HK\$989m.

The acquisitions mark an exciting new chapter in the development of InterBev, building even greater access to global distribution platforms and sales networks for the company's range of alcohol beverage brands.

Aside from the UK office of Inver House Distillers Limited, which employs 150 staff, InterBev operates out of three other hub locations namely Hong Kong (headquarters), Singapore and New York. InterBev's brand portfolio includes Chang Beer, Old Pulteney, Balblair, Knockdhu, Speyburn, Balmenach, Mekhong Rum and Sangsom Rum.

Operations at Inver House's UK base and at Best Spirit Company Ltd's Hong Kong base will be unchanged for company staff.

InterBev President Barrie Jackson commented: *'This is an exciting time for InterBev, and we are looking forward to fully integrating Inver House Distillers and Best Spirits into our operations. Our portfolio of brands is growing fast and has a reputation for quality and distinction. Our focus is now on working together to drive the business and its products at home and internationally.'*



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Note to Editors:

International Beverage Holdings Ltd (InterBev)

InterBev was established in 2003 to support the export and international business development of Thai Beverages Plc (ThaiBev), and aims to be the leading Asian international drinks company through the development of key markets around the world. It has established operations in its home country as well as in Singapore, Cambodia, Malaysia, the UK and North America, exporting brands to over 80 countries globally. Bangkok based ThaiBev employs 20,000 people and enjoys a 60 per cent share of the Thai beer market and a 74 per cent share of the Thai spirits market. The company was listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange in May 2006.

Inver House Distillers Ltd

Inver House Distillers was founded in 1964, originally supplying the US market with the Inver House Green Plaid brand of Blended Scotch Whisky. In 1988 the company was the subject of a management buyout and embarked on a period of growth which included the acquisition of five malt whisky distilleries – Pulteney, Balblair, Knockdhu, Speyburn and Balmenach. It was then purchased by the Pacific Spirits UK in 2001. Based in Airdrie, Inver House exports to over 80 countries worldwide and is active in distillation warehousing and blending, with facilities for 500,000 barrels of whisky plus state of the art blending and laboratory facilities. Inver House has enjoyed steady growth year on year, with an increase in turnover of 8 per cent in 2005.

Best Spirits Company Ltd

Best Spirits Company Ltd was incorporated in Hong Kong in 1983 and is now a leading distributor of Chinese spirits and wines, supplying both Hong Kong and overseas markets. The company is responsible for some of the region's leading brands including Longevity, White Jade Horse, Flying Horse, Star and recent addition Shinobu Sake – all sourced from affiliated company T C C Ningbo Best Spirits Co Ltd. In 2004 Best Spirits Company Ltd assumed full marketing and distribution responsibility in Hong Kong for Thailand's flagship beer brand Chang Beer, sourced through Thai Beverage Plc. The company's 2006 revenues reached an estimated US\$1.4 million and it currently has 18 staff based in Hong Kong.