

## ***Ascendant Financial Partners Acts as Exclusive Advisor in Sale of Ethanol Plant***

For Immediate Release

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February 16, 2011 (Greenwood Village, CO) -- The owners of Gateway Plant, LLC, a 55MMgy ethanol plant located in Pratt, KS, announced the final sale of the assets to the The Scoular Company. Scoular is a multi-billion dollar agriculture marketing company serving customers in growing markets in food, feed, and renewable fuels by managing logistics, storage, and buying and selling of agricultural commodities as well as helping to manage associated risks. The plant, initially started up in late 2007, has been maintained in an idle state since March 2008. Terms of the sale were not disclosed.

Ascendant Financial Partners acted as the exclusive M&A and financial advisor to the sellers. Ascendant is an investment banking group dedicated to servicing agribusiness, food and renewable energy companies.

The Pratt facility, which is located on the Union Pacific Railroad and includes an adjacent 1.8 million bushel grain storage and handling system, will be incorporated into Scoular's North American grain marketing network. Scoular anticipates the grain facility will be ready to receive grain by April 1 and is hopeful the ethanol plant will be operational late in the third or early in the fourth quarter of 2011.

"The sale of the assets to a group with the credibility, resources and experience of Scoular bodes well for the long-term prospects of plant operations and for the local community as well. The plant has been sitting idle for too long, and it's exciting to see the plant moving toward putting folks back to work handling grain and producing renewable fuels and high quality feed products," said Kirk Martin, a partner with Ascendant.

A representative of one of the owners of Gateway, stated that "Ascendant played an important role in helping maximize the value of the plant and professionally facilitating the process to a successful conclusion. Their insight and contacts in the industry proved a valuable contribution to the process. The conclusion of this process reflects an excellent outcome for both parties."

Ascendant Financial Partners is the leading provider of professional capital solutions dedicated to serving clients in the food, agribusiness, and renewable energy industries. Ascendant is a value-based organization built on a foundation of trust, integrity, accountability and client success. Ascendant Financial Partners is a registered FINRA broker/dealer.