

**Matrix Capital Markets Group Announces
the Merger of Dimon, Inc. and
Standard Commercial Corporation**

RICHMOND, VA May 26, 2005 - Matrix Capital Markets Group, Inc. announced today the completion of the merger of DIMON Incorporated and Standard Commercial Corporation. Matrix served as the exclusive financial advisor to Standard Commercial Corporation. The merger, originally announced November 8, 2004, creates a leading global independent leaf tobacco merchant with broad geographic processing capabilities, a diversified product offering and an established customer base, including all of the world's major consumer tobacco products companies.

Dimon and Standard Commercial have completed an extensive integration planning process, incorporating internal expertise from both companies as well as the expertise of Matrix Capital Markets. Through the rationalization of processing capacity and the elimination of duplicative regional and corporate overhead, Alliance One expects to realize over \$60 million in potential annual pre-tax cost savings. The company expects to implement all of the proposed cost savings initiatives and to realize 65% of the potential annual cost savings over the next year, with 100% to be realized in fiscal year 2007.

Matrix Capital Markets Group, Inc. is a leading middle market investment bank headquartered in Richmond, Virginia with offices and partners around the world. Since 1988, Matrix Capital has specialized in merger and acquisition advisory services including exclusive sales and divestitures, management buyouts, acquisition searches, valuations, fairness opinions, financial restructuring, and debt and equity placements. For additional information visit our website, www.matrixcapitalmarkets.com.

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RELEASE**

For Immediate Release
May 26, 2005
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