**SMBC appoints Erich Michel as Head of Structured Trade & Commodity Finance (STCF) Americas**

SMBC has announced the appointment of Erich Michel to the role of Managing Director and Head of Structured Trade & Commodity Finance for the Americas.

Mr. Michel has over 20 years of experience in trade and commodity finance and most recently served as Head of CSTF at MUFG, with a focus on providing trade finance product solutions to commodity traders and producers in North and Latin America.

Prior to MUFG, Erich held various positions in trade finance at BBVA and UBS. Commenting on the announcement, Hiromitsu Yoshizawa, Managing Director and Head of Global Trade Finance, Americas and Nigel Scott, jointly commented: “We’re very pleased to welcome Erich with all of his deep product knowledge and banking experience in both Latin and North America, specifically to the Structured Trade & Commodity Finance team, as we grow both our global and regional business with commodity clients in Americas.”

Mr Michel commented: “I am very excited to be joining SMBC and look forward to driving the development and execution of our STCF strategy for the Americas. We intend to maximize on our existing relationships while developing new client contacts and offering value creation through excellent service and attractive products offerings.”

Mr Michel started with SMBC on 24 December and is based in New York, reporting to Hiromitsu Yoshizawa and Nigel Scott.