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Date: 1 October 2003

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FINANCIAL

Dear Sir

Shaw's Purchases Supermarkets from GU Markets

Please find enclosed a copy of the above announcement made to the London Stock Exchange on r 2003.

Yours sincerely

Bill Hamilton
Assistant Company Secretary

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DLW 10/22

J Sainsbury plc

October 1, 2003

Shaw's Purchases Supermarkets from GU Markets

Shaw's Supermarkets, the US subsidiary of J Sainsbury plc has agreed to purchase five stores from GU Markets LLC of Brattleboro, Vermont following the decision by SUPERVALU to exit the New England market. The stores are all located in New Hampshire and Vermont. They will be acquired in phases and converted to Shaw's. As part of the arrangement, Shaw's also acquired three additional retail locations that are no longer planned to operate as supermarkets.

According to Shaw's Chief Executive Officer, Paul Gannon: "The purchase of these stores offers an exciting chance to enter new markets. They are a good fit with Shaw's existing network of stores in New Hampshire and Vermont."

The five stores to be operated are located in Lancaster, Newport, Walpole and Woodsville, New Hampshire and Vergennes, Vermont. As the stores exist today, they will add over 100,000 square feet of selling space. The immediate plan is to close the stores for a few days in order to replace the perishable inventory and all store brand products with Shaw's brand. This process should be completed by the end of October 2003.

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