AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LTD Form SC 13G February 14, 2005

OMB APPROVAL

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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Rule 13d-102)

Information to be Included in Statements Filed
Pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b)(c), and (d) and Amendments thereto
Filed Pursuant to Rule 13d-2(b)

Axis Capital Holdings Limited

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock

(Title of Class of Securities)

2677606

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2004

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

|_| Rule 13d-1(b)

- |_| Rule 13d-1(c)
- |X| Rule 13d-1(d)
- * The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

SCHEDULE 13G

Iss	suer: Axis Capi	tal I	Holdings Limited	CUSIP No.	267	7606
1	NAME OF REPOR S.S. OR I.R.S		PERSON ENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON			
	J.P. Morgan P 13-3371826	artne	ers (BHCA), L.P.			
2	CHECK THE APP	ROPR	IATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (See Inst.	ructions)		_
3	SEC USE ONLY					
4	CITIZENSHIP O	R PL	ACE OF ORGANIZATION			
	Delaware					
		5	SOLE VOTING POWER			
			5,792,820 shares of Common Stock			
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY		6	SHARED VOTING POWER			
	OWNED BY EACH	7	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER			
F	REPORTING PERSON		5,792,820 shares of Common Stock			
	WITH	8	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER			
9			BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON	 NC		
10	CHECK BOX IF Instructions)	THE A	AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTA	AIN SHARES	(See	Э
11	PERCENT OF CL	ASS I	REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)			
	3.7%					
12	TYPE OF REPOR	TING				
	PN					
			Page 2 of 32			
			SCHEDULE 13G			
Iss	suer: Axis Capi	tal I	Holdings Limited	CUSIP No.	267	7606

1	NAME OF REPORTING PERSON S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON							
	J.P. Morgan E 13-4197054	Partners Global Investors, L.P.						
2	CHECK THE APE	PROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (See Instructions)	(a) _ (b) _					
3	SEC USE ONLY							
4	CITIZENSHIP (OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION						
	Delaware							
		5 SOLE VOTING POWER						
		29,580 Shares of Common Stock						
N	UMBER OF	6 SHARED VOTING POWER						
	SHARES ENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	29,580 Shares of Common Stock						
		7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER						
		8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER						
9		DUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON s of Common Stock						
10	CHECK BOX IF Instructions)	THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES	(See					
11	PERCENT OF CI	LASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)	'-'					
	.02%							
12	TYPE OF REPOR	RTING PERSON*						
	PN 							
		Page 3 of 32						
		SCHEDULE 13G						
Iss	uer: Axis Capi	ital Holdings Limited CUSIP No.	2677606					
1	NAME OF REPOR	RTING PERSON						

S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

3

	J.P. Morgan 26-0032493	Partners Glo	bal Investo	ors A, L.P.			
2	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP* (a) _ (b) _						
3	SEC USE ONLY						
4	CITIZENSHIP (OR PLACE OF	ORGANIZATIO	И			
	Delaware						
		5 SOLE	VOTING POWE	IR			
		98,56	2 Shares of	Common Stock			
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY		6 SHARE	D VOTING PC	 WER			
	OWNED BY EACH	7 SOLE	 DISPOSITIVE	POWER			
F	REPORTING PERSON	98,56	2 Shares of	Common Stock			
	WITH	8 SHARE	D DISPOSITI	VE POWER			
	98,562 Share CHECK BOX IF	s of Common THE AGGREGA	Stock TE AMOUNT I	BY EACH REPORTIN ON ROW (9) EXCLUDE OUNT IN ROW (9)		*	
	.1%						
12	TYPE OF REPO	RTING PERSON	*				
			Page	4 of 32			
			SCHED	OULE 13G			
Iss	suer: Axis Cap	ital Holding	s Limited		CUSIP No.	2677606	
1	NAME OF REPOR		ATION NO. C	F ABOVE PERSON			
	J.P. Morgan 1 13-4197057	Partners Glo	bal Investo	ors (Cayman), L.P.			
2	CHECK THE AP	PROPRIATE BO	X IF A MEME	BER OF A GROUP*		(a) _	

				(b)	_
3 SEC U	JSE ONLY				
4 CITIZ	ENSHIP O	 R PL <i>l</i>	ACE OF ORGANIZATION		
Cayma	ın Island	s			
		5	SOLE VOTING POWER		
			495,407 Shares of Common Stock		
NUMBER SHARE BENEFICI OWNED	S ALLY	6	SHARED VOTING POWER		
EACH	I	7	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER		
REPORTI	N		495,407 Shares of Common Stock		
WITH	TH	8	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER		
11 PERCE .3% 12 TYPE PN			REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9) PERSON*		
			Page 5 of 32		
			SCHEDULE 13G		
Issuer Ax			oldings Limited CUSIP No		
1 NAME S.S.	OF REPOR	TING			
	Morgan P 05546	artne	ers Global Investors (Cayman) II, L.P.		
2 CHECK	THE APP		IATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP*	(a) (b)	_ _
3 SEC U	JSE ONLY				

4	CITIZENSHIP C	R P	LACE OF ORGANIZATION				
	Cayman Island	ls					
		5	SOLE VOTING POWER				
			55,211 Shares of Common Stock				
BE	SHARES NEFICIALLY	6	SHARED VOTING POWER				
		7	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER				
R	EPORTING PERSON		55,211 Shares of Common Stock				
	WITH	8	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER				
9			BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSO				
10	CHECK BOX IF	THE	AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTA	AIN SHA	ARES.		
11	PERCENT OF CL	ASS	REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)				
	.04%						
 12	TYPE OF REPOR	TIN	G PERSON*				
	PN						
			Page 6 of 32				
			SCHEDULE 13G				
Iss	uer: Axis Capi	tal	Holdings Limited	CUSIP	No.	267	7606
1	NAME OF REPOR						
	J.P. Morgan P	art	ners Global Investors (Cayman) III, L.P.				
2	CHECK THE APP		RIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP*				_ _
3	SEC USE ONLY						
 4	CITIZENSHIP C	R P	LACE OF ORGANIZATION				
	Cayman Island	ls					

		5	SOLE VOTING POWER	
			563,192 Shares of Common Stock	
BE	SHARES NEFICIALLY	6	SHARED VOTING POWER	
	EPORTING		SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER	
	PERSON WITH		563,192 Shares of Common Stock	
		8	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	
 9	AGGREGATE AMO 563,192 Share		NEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON ommon Stock	
10	CHECK BOX IF	THE AG	GREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARE	S*
				1_1
11	PERCENT OF CL	ASS RE	PRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)	
	.4%			
 12	TYPE OF REPOR	TING P	 ERSON*	
	PN			
			Page 7 of 32	
			SCHEDULE 13G	
Iss	uer: Axis Capi	tal Ho	ldings Limited CUSIP No	. 2677606
1			ERSON TIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON	
	J.P. Morgan P 13-4197064	artner	s Global Investors (Cayman IV), L.P.	
2			TE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP*	(a) _ (b) _
 3				
 4	CITIZENSHIP O	R PLAC	E OF ORGANIZATION	
	Cayman Island	S		
		5	SOLE VOTING POWER	
			417,789 Shares of Common Stock	

	UMBER OF SHARES NEFICIALLY	6	SHARED VOTING POWER	
	OWNED BY EACH	7	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER	
R	EPORTING PERSON		417,789 Shares of Common Stock	
	WITH			
		ŏ	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	
9			BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON Common Stock	
10	CHECK BOX IF	THE.	AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES	;*
				1_1
11	PERCENT OF C	CLASS	REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)	
	.3%			
12	TYPE OF REPO	RTING	PERSON*	
	PN			
			Page 8 of 32	
			SCHEDULE 13G	
Iss	uer: Axis Car	oital :	Holdings Limited CUSIP No.	. 2677606
1	NAME OF REPO	 DRTING		
	J.P. Morgan 98-0440874	Partn	ers Global Investors (Cayman/Selldown) III, L.P.	
2	CHECK THE AF	PROPR	IATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP*	
				(a) _ (b) _
3	SEC USE ONLY	<u> </u>		
4	CITIZENSHIP	OR PL	ACE OF ORGANIZATION	
	Cayman Islar	nds		
		5	SOLE VOTING POWER	
			213,967 Shares of Common Stock	
	UMBER OF SHARES NEFICIALLY	6	SHARED VOTING POWER	
	OWNED BY EACH	 7	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER	

REPORTING PERSON WITH			213,967 Shares of Common Stock					
	WIIN	8	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER					
9	AGGREGATE AM		ENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON Common Stock					
10	CHECK BOX IF	THE A	GGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES	*				
11		LASS R	EPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)	l_	_			
	.1%							
12	TYPE OF REPO	RTING	PERSON*					
	PN							
			Page 9 of 32					
			SCHEDULE 13G					
Iss	uer: Axis Cap	ital H	oldings Limited CUSIP No.	26770	606			
1	NAME OF REPO		PERSON NTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON					
	J.P. Morgan 3	Partne	rs Global Investors (Cayman/Selldown) IV, L.P.					
2	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP* (a) . (b) .							
3	SEC USE ONLY							
4	CITIZENSHIP	OR PLA	CE OF ORGANIZATION					
	Cayman Islan	ds						
		5	SOLE VOTING POWER					
			152,834 Shares of Common Stock					
	UMBER OF SHARES NEFICIALLY	6	SHARED VOTING POWER					
R	OWNED BY EACH EPORTING	7	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER					
	PERSON WITH		152,834 Shares of Common Stock					
		8	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER					

9	AGGREGATE AMO		BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON Common Stock	
10	CHECK BOX IF	THE A	AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARE	s* _
11	PERCENT OF CI	LASS I	REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)	1_1
	.1%			
12	TYPE OF REPOR	RTING	PERSON*	
	PN			
			Page 10 of 32	
			SCHEDULE 13G	
Iss	uer: Axis Capi		Holdings Limited CUSIP No	. 2677606
1	NAME OF REPOR	RTING		
	J.P. Morgan (Capita		
2	CHECK THE APE	PROPR	IATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP*	(a) _ (b) _
3	SEC USE ONLY			
4	CITIZENSHIP C	DR PL	ACE OF ORGANIZATION	
	Delaware			
		5	SOLE VOTING POWER	
			865,611 Shares of Common Stock	
BE:	UMBER OF SHARES NEFICIALLY	6	SHARED VOTING POWER	
	OWNED BY EACH	7	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER	
K.	EPORTING PERSON		865,611 Shares of Common Stock	
	WITH	8	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 865,611 Shares of Common Stock

10	CHECK BOX I	F THE A	AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES	*
				_
11	PERCENT OF	CLASS F	REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)	
	.6% 			
12	TYPE OF REP	ORTING	PERSON*	
	PN 			
			Page 11 of 32	
			SCHEDULE 13G	
Iss	uer: Axis Ca	pital B	Holdings Limited CUSIP No.	2677606
1	NAME OF REPO		PERSON ENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON	
	J.P. Morgan 980339267	Corsai	r II Offshore Capital Partners, L.P.	
2	CHECK THE A	PPROPRI	TATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP*	(a) _ (b) _
3	SEC USE ONL	Y		
 4	CITIZENSHIP	OR PLA	ACE OF ORGANIZATION	
	Cayman Isla	nds		
		5	SOLE VOTING POWER	
			3,706,111 Shares of Common Stock	
	UMBER OF SHARES NEFICIALLY	6	SHARED VOTING POWER	
	OWNED BY EACH	7	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER	
R	EPORTING PERSON		3,706,111 Shares of Common Stock	
	WITH	8	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	
 9			BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON of Common Stock	
10	CHECK BOX I	F THE A	AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES	*
				_

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

11

2.4% 12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON* PN ______ Page 12 of 32 SCHEDULE 13G Issuer: Axis Capital Holdings Limited CUSIP No. 2677606 Item 1. (a) Name of Issuer: Axis Capital Holdings Limited (b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices: 106 Pitts Bay Road Pembroke, HM 08 Bermuda Item 2. (a) Name of Person Filing: J.P. Morgan Partners (BHCA), L.P. ("JPMP (BHCA)") J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors, L.P. ("JPMP Global") J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors A, L.P. ("JPMP Global A") J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Cayman), L.P. ("JPMP Cayman") J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Cayman) II, L.P. ("JPMP Cayman II") J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Cayman) III, L.P. ("JPMP Cayman III") J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Cayman) IV, L.P. ("JPMP Cayman IV") J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Cayman/Selldown) III, L.P. ("JPMP Selldown III") J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Cayman/Selldown) IV, L.P. ("JPMP Selldown IV") J.P. Morgan Capital, L.P. ("Morgan Capital") J.P. Morgan Corsair II Offshore Capital Partners, L.P. ("Corsair") Supplemental information relating to the ownership and control of the person filing this statement is included in Exhibit 2(a) attached hereto. (b) Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence: All Reportings Persons (other than Corsair): c/o J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC 1221 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10020 Corsair:

277 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10172

See also supplemental information relating to principal business office is included in Exhibit 2(a) attached hereto.

(C) Citizenship:

JPMP (BHCA) : Delaware

JPMP Global : Delaware

JPMP Global A : Delaware

JPMP Cayman : Cayman Islands

JPMP Cayman III : Cayman Islands

JPMP Cayman IV : Cayman Islands

JPMP Selldown III : Cayman Islands

JPMP Selldown IV : Delaware

Morgan Capitl : Delaware

Corsair : Delaware

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SCHEDULE 13G

Issuer: Axis Capital Holdings Limited

CUSIP No. 2677606

Title of Class of Securities (of Issuer):

Common Stock

(e) CUSIP Number:

2677606

Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to ss.ss. 240. 13d-1(b) or 240. 13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:

Not applicable.

Item 4. Ownership

(a) Amount Beneficially Owned:

JPMP (BHCA): 5,792,820

JPMP Global: 29,580

JPMP Global A: 98,562

JPMP Cayman: 495,407

JPMP Cayman II: 55,211

JPMP Cayman III: 563,192

JPMP Cayman IV: 417,789

JPMP Selldown III: 213,967

JPMP Selldown IV: 152,834

Morgan Capital: 865,611

Corsair: 3,706,111

(b) Percent of Class:

JPMP (BHCA):
JPMP Global:
JPMP Global A: 3.7% (as of December 31, 2004) .02% (as of December 31, 2004) .1% (as of December 31, 2004)

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JPMP Cayman:
                                     .3% (as of December 31, 2004)
JPMP Cayman II:
                                    .04% (as of December 31, 2004)
JPMP Cayman III:
                                    .4% (as of December 31, 2004)
JPMP Cayman IV:
                                    .3% (as of December 31, 2004)
JPMP Selldown III:
                                    .1% (as of December 31, 2004)
JPMP Selldown IV:
                                    .1% (as of December 31, 2004)
Morgan Capital:
                                     .6% (as of December 31, 2004)
Corsair:
                                    2.4% (as of December 31, 2004)
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(c) Number of shares as to which such person has:

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(i) JPMP (BHCA): 5,792,820

JPMP Global: 29,580

JPMP Global A: 98,562

JPMP Cayman: 495,407

JPMP Cayman II: 55,211

JPMP Cayman IV: 417,789

JPMP Selldown III: 213,967

JPMP Selldown IV: 152,834

Morgan Capital: 865,611

Corsair: 3,706,111
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SCHEDULE 13G

Issuer: Axis Capital Holdings Limited CUSIP No. 2677606

(ii) Not applicable

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      (iii)
      JPMP (BHCA):
      5,792,820

      JPMP Global:
      29,580

      JPMP Global A:
      98,562

      JPMP Cayman:
      495,407

      JPMP Cayman II:
      55,211

      JPMP Cayman III:
      563,192

      JPMP Cayman IV:
      417,789

      JPMP Selldown III:
      213,967

      JPMP Selldown IV:
      152,834

      Morgan Capital:
      865,611

      Corsair:
      3,706,111
```

(iv) Not applicable

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class

Not applicable

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person

Not applicable.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company

Not applicable.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group

Not applicable.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group

Not applicable.

Item 10. Certification

Not applicable

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SCHEDULE 13G

Issuer: Axis Capital Holdings Limited

CUSIP No. 2677606

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: February 14, 2005

J.P. MORGAN PARTNERS (BHCA), L.P.

By: JPMP Masterfund Manager, L.P., its General Partner

By: JPMP Capital Corp., its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

J.P. MORGAN PARTNERS GLOBAL INVESTORS, L.P.

By: JPMP Global Investors, L.P.,

its General Partner

By: JPMP Capital Corp., its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

J.P, MORGAN PARTNERS GLOBAL INVESTORS A, L.P.

By: JPMP Global Investors, L.P., its General Partner

By: JPMP Capital Corp., its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

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SCHEDULE 13G

Issuer: Axis Capital Holdings Limited

CUSIP No. 2677606

J.P. MORGAN PARTNERS GLOBAL INVESTORS (CAYMAN), L.P.

By: JPMP Global Investors, L.P., its General Partner

By: JPMP Capital Corp., its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

J.P. MORGAN PARTNERS GLOBAL INVESTORS (CAYMAN/SELLDOWN) III, L.P.

By: JPMP Global Investors, L.P.,

its General Partner

By: JPMP Capital Corp.,

its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

J.P. MORGAN PARTNERS GLOBAL INVESTORS (CAYMAN/SELLDOWN) IV, L.P.

By: JPMP Global Investors, L.P.,

its General Partner

By: JPMP Capital Corp.,

its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

J.P. MORGAN PARTNERS GLOBAL INVESTORS (CAYMAN) II, L.P.

By: JPMP Global Investors, L.P.,

its General Partner

By: JPMP Capital Corp., its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

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SCHEDULE 13G

Issuer: Axis Capital Holdings Limited

CUSIP No. 2677606

J.P. MORGAN PARTNERS GLOBAL INVESTORS (CAYMAN) III, L.P.

By: JPMP Global Investors, L.P.,

its General Partner

By: JPMP Capital Corp.,

its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

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SCHEDULE 13G

Issuer: Axis Capital Holdings Limited

CUSIP No. 2677606

J.P. MORGAN PARTNERS GLOBAL INVESTORS (CAYMAN) IV, L.P.

By: JPMP Global Investors, L.P.,

its General Partner

By: JPMP Capital Corp.,

its General Partner

By:

Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

J.P. MORGAN CAPITAL, L.P.

By: JPMP Capital LLC,
 its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

J.P. MORGAN CORSAIR II OFFSHORE CAPITAL PARTNERS, L.P.

By: Corsair II Offshore, L.L.C. its General Partner

By: Corsair II, L.P.,
 its Managing Member

By: Corsair II, L.L.C., its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

Name: Amy Knapp

Title: Chief Financial Officer

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SCHEDULE 13G

Issuer: Axis Capital Holdings Limited CUSIP No. 2677606

EXHIBIT 2(a)

Item 2. Identity and Background.

This statement is being filed by J.P. Morgan Partners (BHCA), L.P., a Delaware limited partnership (hereinafter referred to as "JPMP (BHCA)"), whose principal business office is located 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020. JPMP (BHCA) is engaged in the venture capital, private equity and leveraged buyout business. The general partner of JPMP (BHCA) is JPMP Master Fund Manager, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership (hereinafter referred to as "JPMP Master Fund"), whose principal business office is located at the same address as JPMP (BHCA), and is also engaged directly and indirectly (through affiliates) in the venture capital, private equity and leveraged buyout

business. As general partner of JPMP (BHCA), JPMP Master Fund may be deemed to beneficially own the shares held by JPMP (BHCA).

This statement is also being filed by J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("JPMP Global"), whose principal place of business is located at the same address as JPMP (BHCA); J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors A, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("JPMP Global A"), whose principal place of business is located at the same address as JPMP (BHCA); J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Cayman), L.P., a limited partnership organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands ("JPMP Cayman"), whose principal place of business is located at the same address as JPMP (BHCA); J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Cayman) II, L.P., a limited partnership organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands ("JPMP Cayman II"), whose principal place of business is located at the same address as JPMP (BHCA); J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Cayman) III, L.P., a limited partnership organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands ("JPMP Cayman III"), whose principal place of business is located at the same address as JPMP (BHCA); and J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Cayman) IV, L.P., a limited partnership organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands ("JPMP Cayman IV"; J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Cayman/Selldown) III, L.P. ("JPMP Selldown") and J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Cayman/Selldown) IV,L.P. ("JPMP Selldown IV") and collectively with JPMP Global, JPMP Global A, JPMP Cayman, JPMP Cayman II and JPMP Cayman III, JPMP Selldown the "Global Fund Entities"), whose principal place of business is located at the same address as JPMP (BHCA)). Each of the Global Fund Entities is also engaged in the venture capital, private equity and leveraged buyout business. The general partner of each of the Global Fund Entities is J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("JPMP Investors"), whose principal place of business is located at the same address as JPMP (BHCA). JPMP Investors is engaged indirectly in the venture capital, private equity and leveraged buyout business as general partner of each of the Global Fund Entities. As general partner of each of the Global Fund Entities. JPMP Investors may be deemed to beneficially own the shares held by the Global Fund Entities.

The general partner of each of JPMP Master Fund and JPMP Investors, L.P. is JPMP Capital Corp., a New York corporation (hereinafter referred to as "JPMP Capital Corp."), whose principal business office is located at the same address as JPMP (BHCA), and is also engaged directly and indirectly (through affiliates) in the venture capital, private equity and leveraged buyout business. Set forth in Schedule A hereto and incorporated herein by reference are the names, business addresses, principal occupations and employments of each executive officer and director of JPMP Capital Corp. As the general partner of each of JPMP Master Fund and JPMP Investors, JPMP Capital Corp. may be deemed to beneficially own the shares held by JPMP (BHCA) and the Global Fund Entities.

This statement is also being filed by J.P. Morgan Capital, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("Morgan Capital"), whose principal place of business is located at the same address as JPMP (BHCA) and J.P. Morgan Corsair II Offshore Capital Partners, L.P., a limited partnership organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands ("Corsair"), whose principal place of business is located at 277 Park Avenue New York, New York 10172. Each of Morgan Capital and Corsair is engaged in the private equity and leveraged buyout business. The general partner of Corsair is Corsair II Offshore, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company ("Corsair LLC"), whose principal place of business is located at the same address as Corsair. Corsair LLC is also engaged directly and indirectly (through affiliates) in the private equity and leveraged buyout business. The Managing Member of Corsair LLC is Corsair II, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("Corsair LP"), whose principal place of business is located at the same address as Corsair. Corsair LP is also engaged directly and indirectly (through affiliates) in the private equity and leveraged buyout business. The general partner of Corsair LP is Corsair II, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company ("Corsair II"), whose principal place of business is

located at the same address as Corsair. Corsair II is also engaged directly and indirectly (through affiliates) in the private equity and leveraged buyout business. Set forth in Schedule B hereto and incorporated herein by reference are the names, business addresses, principal occupations and employments of each executive officer and director of Corsair II. The Managing Member of Corsair II is J.P. Morgan Investment Partners, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("JPM Investment"), whose principal place of business is located at the same address as JPMP (BHCA). JPM Investment is also engaged directly and indirectly (through affiliates) in the private equity and leveraged buyout business.

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The general partner of Morgan Capital and JPM Investment is JPMP Capital, L.L.C. (formerly known as J.P. Morgan Capital Corporation), a Delaware limited liability company ("JPMP Capital"), whose principal place of business is located at the same address as JPMP (BHCA). JPMP Capital is also engaged directly and indirectly (through affiliates) in the venture capital, private equity and leveraged buyout business. Set forth in Schedule C hereto and incorporated herein by reference are the names, business addresses, principal occupations and employments of each executive officer and director of JPMP Capital. As general partner of Morgan Capital, JPMP Capital may be deemed to beneficially own the shares held by Morgan Capital.

Each of JPMP Capital Corp. and JPMP Capital is a wholly owned subsidiary of JPMorgan Chase & Co., a Delaware corporation (hereinafter referred to as "JPMorgan Chase") which is engaged (primarily through subsidiaries) in the commercial banking business with its principal office located at 270 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017. Set forth in Schedule D hereto and incorporated herein by reference are the names, business addresses, principal occupations and employments of each executive officer and director of JPMorgan Chase.

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EXHIBIT 2(b)

JOINT FILING AGREEMENT

The undersigned acknowledge and agree that the foregoing statement on Schedule 13G is filed on behalf of each of the undersigned and that all subsequent amendments to this statement on Schedule 13G shall be filed on behalf of each of the undersigned without the necessity of filing additional joint acquisition statements. The undersigned acknowledge that each shall be responsible for the timely filing of such amendments, and for the completeness and accuracy of the information concerning him or it contained therein, but shall not be responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the information concerning the other, except to the extent that he or it knows or has reason to believe that such information is accurate.

Dated this 14 day of February, 2005.

J.P. MORGAN PARTNERS (BHCA), L.P.

By: JPMP Masterfund Manager, L.P.,

its General Partner

By: JPMP Capital Corp., its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

J.P. MORGAN PARTNERS GLOBAL INVESTORS, L.P.

By: JPMP Global Investors, L.P., its General Partner

By: JPMP Capital Corp., its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

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SCHEDULE 13G

Issuer: Axis Capital Holdings Limited

CUSIP No. 2677606

J.P, MORGAN PARTNERS GLOBAL INVESTORS A, L.P.

By: JPMP Global Investors, L.P., its General Partner

By: JPMP Capital Corp., its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

_____ Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

J.P. MORGAN PARTNERS GLOBAL INVESTORS (CAYMAN), L.P.

By: JPMP Global Investors, L.P., its General Partner

By: JPMP Capital Corp., its General Partner

Issuer: Axis Capital Holdings Limited

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker _____ Name: Jeffrey C. Walker Title: President J.P. MORGAN PARTNERS GLOBAL INVESTORS (CAYMAN) II, L.P. By: JPMP Global Investors, L.P., its General Partner By: JPMP Capital Corp., its General Partner By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker _____ Name: Jeffrey C. Walker Title: President Page 23 of 32 SCHEDULE 13G CUSIP No. 2677606 J.P. MORGAN PARTNERS GLOBAL INVESTORS (CAYMAN) III, L.P. By: JPMP Global Investors, L.P., its General Partner By: JPMP Capital Corp., its General Partner By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker Name: Jeffrey C. Walker Title: President J.P. MORGAN PARTNERS GLOBAL INVESTORS (CAYMAN) IV, L.P. By: JPMP Global Investors, L.P., its General Partner By: JPMP Capital Corp., its General Partner By: Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

J.P. MORGAN PARTNERS GLOBAL INVESTORS (CAYMAN/SELLDOWN) III, L.P.

By: JPMP Global Investors, L.P., its General Partner

By: JPMP Capital Corp., its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

J.P. MORGAN PARTNERS GLOBAL INVESTORS (CAYMAN/SELLDOWN) IV, L.P.

By: JPMP Global Investors, L.P., its General Partner

By: JPMP Capital Corp., its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

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CUSIP No. 2677606 Issuer: Axis Capital Holdings Limited

J.P. MORGAN CAPITAL, L.P.

By: JPMP Capital LLC, its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

Name: Jeffrey C. Walker

Title: President

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J.P. MORGAN CORSAIR II OFFSHORE

CAPITAL PARTNERS, L.P.

By: Corsair II Offshore, L.L.C. its General Partner

By: Corsair II, L.P.,
 its Managing Member

By: Corsair II, L.L.C., its General Partner

By: /s/ Jeffrey C. Walker

Name: Amy Knapp

Title: Chief Financial Officer

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SCHEDULE 13G

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SCHEDULE A

JPMP CAPITAL CORP.

Executive Officers(1)

Chief Executive Officer	William B. Harrison**
President	Jeffrey C. Walker*
Chief Investment Officer	Arnold L. Chavkin*
Managing Director	Srinivas Akkaraju*
Managing Director	Christopher Albinson*
Managing Director	Dr. Dana Beth Ardi*
Managing Director	Richard Aube*
Managing Director	Christopher C. Behrens*
Managing Director	John Breckenridge*
Managing Director	Julie Casella-Esposito*
Managing Director	Rodney A. Ferguson*
Managing Director	Cornell P. French*
Managing Director	Michael R. Hannon*
Managing Director	Matthew Lori*
Managing Director	Jonathan R. Lynch*
Managing Director	Bryan Martin*
Managing Director	Sunil Mishra*
Managing Director	Stephen P. Murray*
Managing Director	Timothy Purcell*
Managing Director	John Reardon*
Managing Director	Faith Rosenfeld*
Managing Director	Shahan D. Soghikian*
Managing Director	William Stuck*
Managing Director	Patrick J. Sullivan*
Managing Director	Timothy J. Walsh*
Managing Director	Richard D. Waters, Jr. *
Managing Director	Damion E. Wicker, M.D.*

Directors (1)

William B. Harrison**
 Jeffrey C. Walker*

- (1) Each of whom is a United States citizen except for Mr. Irigoin.
- * Principal occupation is employee and/or officer of J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC. Business address is c/o J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020.
- ** Principal occupation is employee or officer of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. Business address is c/o J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., 270 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017.
- (1) Each of whom is a United States citizen.

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SCHEDULE B

CORSAIR II, L.L.C.

Executive Officers(2)

Chairman
President
Vice President
Chief Financial Officer

Nicholas Paumgarten* Ignacio Jayanti* Kimbill Brooker* Amy Knapp*

Directors (1)

Nicholas Paumgarten*
Jeffrey C. Walker**
Richard Herbst*

- (2) Each of whom is a United States citizen.
- * Principal occupation is employee or officer of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. Business address is c/o Corsair II, L.L.C. Co., 277 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10172.
- ** Principal occupation is employee and/or officer of J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC. Business address is c/o J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020.

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Issuer: Axis Capital Holdings Limited CUSIP No. 2677606

SCHEDULE C

JPMP CAPITAL, LLC

Executive Officers(1)

President Chief Investment Officer Managing Director Jeffrey C. Walker* Arnold L. Chavkin* Srinivas Akkaraju*

Managing Director	Christopher Albinson*
Managing Director	Dr. Dana Beth Ardi*
Managing Director	Richard Aube*
Managing Director	Christopher C. Behrens*
Managing Director	John Breckenridge*
Managing Director	Julie Casella-Esposito*
Managing Director	Rodney A. Ferguson*
Managing Director	Cornell P. French*
Managing Director	Michael R. Hannon*
Managing Director	Matthew Lori*
Managing Director	Jonathan R. Lynch*
Managing Director	Bryan Martin*
Managing Director	Sunil Mishra*
Managing Director	Stephen P. Murray*
Managing Director	Timothy Purcell*
Managing Director	John Reardon*
Managing Director	Faith Rosenfeld*
Managing Director	Shahan D. Soghikian*
Managing Director	William Stuck*
Managing Director	Patrick J. Sullivan*
Managing Director	Timothy J. Walsh*
Managing Director	Richard D. Waters, Jr. 7
Managing Director	Damion E. Wicker, M.D.*

Directors (1)

Jeffrey C. Walker*

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Issuer: Axis Capital Holdings Limited CUSIP No. 2677606

SCHEDULE D

JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

Executive Officers(1)

Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer President and Chief Operating Officer Chief Information Officer Co-Chairman, Investment Bank Chief Executive Officer, Card Services Chief Financial Officer Chairman, West Coast Region Director of Human Resources, Head of Real Estate/Facilities, General Services, Security John J. Farrell* Co-General Counsel Director of Corporate Marketing and Communications Frederick W. Hill*

William B. Harrison Jr.* James Dimon* Austin A. Adams* Steven D. Black* William I. Campbell* Michael J. Cavanagh* David A. Coulter*

Joan Guggenheimer*

⁽¹⁾ Each of whom is a United States citizen.

Principal occupation is employee and/or officer of J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC. Business address is c/o J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020.

Principal occupation is employee or officer of JPMorgan Chase & Co. Business address is c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co., 270 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017.

Head, Commercial Banking Head, Strategy and Business Development

Co-General Counsel

Chief Executive Officer, Treasury &

Securities Services

Head, Retail Financial Services

Executive Vice President, Card Services

Head, Asset & Wealth Management

Chief Risk Officer

Co-Chairman, Investment Bank

Samuel Todd Maclin*
Jay Mandelbaum*
William H. McDavid*

Heidi Miller*
Charles W. Scharf*
Richard J. Srednicki*
James E. Staley*
Don M. Wilson III*
William T. Winters*

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SCHEDULE 13G

Issuer: Axis Capital Holdings Limited CUSIP No. 2677606

Directors(3)

Name	Principal Occupation or Employment; Business or Residence Address
Hans W. Becherer	Retired Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer Deere & Company c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue New York, New York 10017
John H. Biggs	Former Chairman and CEO TIAA - CREF c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue New York, New York 10017
Lawrence A. Bossidy	Retired Chairman of the Board Honeywell International Inc. c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue New York, New York 10017
Stephen B. Burke	President Comcast Cable Communications, Inc. c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue New York, New York 10017
James S. Crown	President Henry Crown and Company c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue New York, New York 10017
James Dimon	President and Chief Operating Officer

⁽¹⁾ Each of whom is a United States citizen.

^{*} Principal occupation is employee or officer of JPMorgan Chase & Co. Business address is c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co., 270 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017.

	JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue, 8th Floor New York, New York 10017-2070
Ellen V. Futter	President and Trustee American Museum of Natural History c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue New York, New York 10017
William H. Gray, III	Retired President and Chief Executive Officer The College Fund/UNCF c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue New York, New York 10017

(3) Each of whom is a United States citizen.

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Issuer: Axis Capital Holdings Limited

CUSIP No. 2677606

Name	Principal Occupation or Employment; Business or Residence Address
William B. Harrison, Jr.	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue, 8th Floor New York, New York 10017-2070
Laban P. Jackson, Jr.	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Clear Creek Properties, Inc. c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue New York, New York 10017
Lee R. Raymond	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer Exxon Mobil Corporation c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue New York, New York 10017
John W. Kessler	Owner John W. Kessler Company c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue New York, New York 10017
Robert I. Lipp	Chairman The St. Paul Travelers Companies, Inc. c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue New York, New York 10017
Richard A. Monoogian	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Masco Corporation

	c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue New York, New York 10017
David C. Novak	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Yum! Brands, Inc. c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue New York, New York 10017
John R. Stafford	Retired Chairman of the Board Wyeth c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue New York, New York 10017

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