



Investment News

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1. ECONOMIC INDICATORS

UK

● Total net worth of the UK including financial assets at end 2005 was £6,012 billion. This is an increase of £119 billion on the previous year. The most valuable asset continues to be housing with a total value of £3,575 billion. This is up 4% on the previous year and is equivalent to 59% of the nation's wealth.

● GDP grew by 0.8% in Q2 2006, compared with 0.7% in Q1.

● Manufacturing output increased by 0.7 % in the three months to May 2006 compared with the three months to February 2006.

● In June 2006, output price annual inflation for all manufactured products rose to 3.3%. Input price annual inflation fell from 13.7% in May to 10.9% in June.

● Services output rose by 0.7% in the three months to May 2006 compared with the three months to February 2006. Distribution output rose by 0.7% in the three months to May. Hotels and restaurants output rose by 0.6% in the three months to May. Transport, storage and communication output fell by 0.1% in the three months to May. Business services and finance output rose by 1% in the three months to May. Government and other services output increased by 0.6% in the three months to May.

● In Q1 2006 whole economy productivity growth was 1.5% compared with the same quarter a year ago. This is up from growth of 1.2% in the previous quarter.

● Consumer Prices Index (CPI) annual inflation rose to 2.5% in June 2006 up from 2.2% in May. Retail Prices Index (RPI) inflation rose in June to 3.3% from 3% in May.

● Employment rate was 74.6% for the three months ending in May 2006. This is unchanged over the quarter but down 0.2% over the year. The number of people in employment for the three months ending in May 2006 was 28.90 million. Employment increased by 59,000 over the quarter and by 223,000 over the year. The unemployment rate was 5.4%, up 0.3% over the quarter and 0.7% over the year. The number of unemployed people increased by 90,000 over the quarter and by 224,000 over the year to reach 1.65 million.

- Average earnings (excluding bonuses) rose by 3.8% in the year to May 2006, up from 3.7% in April. Average earnings (including bonuses) rose by 4.1% in the year to May 2006, down from 4.4% in April. In the year to May 2006, pay growth (excluding bonuses) in the private sector was 4%, compared with 3% for the public sector. Including bonus payments, private sector growth stood at 4.3% compared with 3.7% for the public sector.
- In the year to May 2006, consumer prices increased by 2.2%, which is below the rate of earnings growth.
- The volume of retail sales in the three months April to June 2006 was 2.1% higher than in the previous three months, the highest three-monthly growth since February 2004, when it was also 2.1%.
- The overall profitability of UK private non-financial corporations in Q1 2006 was 14.4%. Manufacturing companies' net rate of return was estimated at 6.6% in Q1 2006. The profitability of service companies in Q1 2006 was 19.9%.
- The revised estimate of business investment for Q1 2006 is estimated to be 4.6% higher than the same period of last year and 1.7% higher than the previous quarter.
- In June 2006 the public sector showed a deficit on current budget of £6.4 billion, compared with a deficit of £4.7 billion in June 2005.
- Total car production in the three months to June 2006 rose by 0.4% compared with the previous three months.
- Visits by overseas residents to the UK rose by 6% during the 12 months ending May 2006, from 29 million to 30.8 million. In the same 12-month period, visits abroad by UK residents rose by 3% from 65.7 million to 67.6 million.
- During March to May 2006, there were 8.2 million visits to the UK by overseas residents – an increase of 7% when compared with the previous three months. Spending increased 7% to £3.9 billion. Over the same period, the number of visits overseas by UK residents increased by 1% to 17.3 million when compared with the previous three months, while the associated spending remained increased by 3% to £8.4 billion.
- The UK's deficit on trade in goods and services was £4.4 billion in May 2006, £1 billion higher than in April. The surplus on trade in services was £2.3 billion in May, £0.2 billion higher than in April. The deficit on trade in goods in May was £6.8 billion, compared with a deficit of £5.6 billion in April. The deficit with the enlarged EU was £0.9 billion larger than in April at £3 billion. The deficit with non-EU countries widened to £3.7 billion in May from a deficit of £3.4 billion in April.
- The current account deficit fell to £8.3 billion in Q1 2006, this follows a revised deficit of £9.1 billion in Q4 2005.

For previously released UK economic indicators visit National Statistics <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/>

LONDON

- In the most recent 28-day period, (From 30 April to 27 May 2006) London's public transport had 218.5 million passenger journeys; 140.7 million by bus and 77.8 million by underground.
- The moving average annual rate of growth in passenger journeys decreased to -0.1% from 0.2% in the previous period.
- The Footfall Index of shoppers in London was 98.3 in the first week of July compared to 96 in the last week of June.
- The rate of claimant count unemployment in London was 3.4% in June 2006. There were 168,800 unemployed claimants in London in June 2006, compared with 163,500 in June 2005.
- London's annual growth in output was 2.6% in Q4 2005, unchanged from Q3 2005.
- London's year-on-year employment growth increased to 2.6% in Q4 2005, from 1.7% in Q3 2005.
- London's firms continued to expand their output of goods and services in June 2006. The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) of business activity recorded 60.4 in June 2006 compared to 60.5 in May.
- London firms continued to increase their level of employment in June 2006. The PMI for the level of employment was 56.1 in June compared to 55.9 in May.
- June 2006 saw continued growth in new orders for London firms. The PMI for new orders reported 58.8 in June 2006, a slight decrease from 59.2 in May
- Annual house price growth in London was 4.7% in Q2 2006 down from 5.1% in Q1. Annual house price growth in the UK was 4.8% in Q2 2006 down slightly from 4.9% in Q1.
- 11.9 million passengers travelled through London's airports in June 2006. The number of passengers using London's airports increased by 4.3% from June 2005 to June 2006

● Annual growth in overseas visitor numbers to the UK and their expenditure in the UK continued in May 2006. The annual growth rate of overseas visitors to the UK was 4.3% in May, down from 16.7% in April. The annual growth in expenditure by overseas visitors in the UK was 4.1% in May, down from 20% in April.

US

● The economy grew at an annual rate of 5.6% in Q1 2006. First quarter corporate profits increased 28.5% from the same quarter a year ago. Corporate profits increased \$176.7 billion in Q1 2006.

● Personal income grew 0.4% in May 2006, after rising 0.7% in April. Over the past twelve months, personal income has risen 5.4%. Real consumer spending increased 0.1% in May 2006, after increasing 0.2% in April.

● The US monthly goods & services deficit widened in May 2006. The deficit increased from \$63.3 billion (revised) in April, to \$63.8 billion in May as imports increased more than exports. Exports of goods and services increased \$2.7 billion in May to \$118.7 billion and imports of goods and services increased \$3.2 billion in May to \$182.5 billion.

● The US net international investment position at yearend 2005 was -\$2,693.8 billion, as the value of foreign investments in the United States exceeded the value of US investments abroad. US owned assets abroad were \$10,008.7 billion at yearend 2005 and foreign owned assets in the United States were \$12,702.5 billion.

For previously released US economic indicators visit US Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

<http://www.bea.gov/beahome.html>

NY

● Private employment increased by 5,700 jobs in May 2006, after an increase of 5,000 jobs in April. (Source: New York State Dept. of Labour)

● The unemployment rate was 5% in May down from 5.4% in April. (Source: New York State Dept. of Labour)

● The NYC hotel occupancy rate in May 2006 was 88%, compared to 90% in May 2005. (Source: New York State Dept. of Labour)

● The Direct Class A office vacancy rate was 6% in June 2006, while the average asking rent was \$52 per SF. (Source: New York State Dept. of Labour)

● Passengers in NYC's airports totalled 9 million in April 2006. (Source: New York State Dept. of Labour)

● In June 2006, overall Manhattan Direct Class A vacancy rates decreased by 0.6 percentage points to 6%, while average Direct rents remained unchanged. (Source: Cushman & Wakefield)

● From May to June 2006, Midtown Direct Class A vacancy rates decreased from 5.8% to 5.1%. (Source: Cushman & Wakefield)

● From May to June 2006, total sublease Class A vacancy rates decreased to 1.7%, while average sublease rental rates remained unchanged. (Source: Cushman & Wakefield)

● In April 2006, 9 million passengers flew in and out of the region's airports, a 7% increase from April 2005 passenger levels. (Source: Port Authority of New York and New Jersey)

● In May 2006, the average daily hotel room rate was \$270, a 13% increase from May 2005. (Source: PKF Consulting)

● Hotel occupancy was 88% in May 2006, compared with 90% in May 2005. (Source: PKF Consulting)

● Total Broadway attendance was approximately 1 million during the four weeks ending June 25, 2006, a 3% decrease from the same period last year. Broadway revenue during this period was roughly \$75 million, a 7% increase from last year. (Source: The League of American Theatres and Producers)

● Total ridership on MTA subways, trains and buses, and bridge and tunnel use in April 2006 was roughly 220 million, a decrease of 3% from April 2005. In April 2006, subway ridership was approximately 120 million, a decrease of 2% since April 2005. (Source: Metropolitan Transportation Authority)

● For the four months ending May 2006: There were 2,722 building projects (including new, additions and alterations) that started construction in NYC, a 4% decrease from the four months ending May 2005. There were 108 infrastructure (non-building) projects, a decrease of 23% from last year. (Source: Dodge Analytics)

● Planned space for building projects is approximately 17 million square feet, a 21% increase from the same period ending 2005. (Source: Dodge Analytics)

2. INVESTMENT INDICATORS

UK

UK Remains Europe's Number One Location for US Investment For 36 Consecutive Years

UK remains the top recipient of US foreign direct investment in Europe for 36 consecutive years. Globally, the UK recorded its highest number of inward investment projects to date, according to figures published by UK Trade & Investment. The record 1220 projects – including 446 from the US bring new employment to every region of the UK, and range from research and development projects to expansions of financial services firms.

Key figures are:

446 new investment projects from the US

Total projects up from 1066 (2004/05) to 1220

Total direct new jobs are down by 14% on last year to 34,077, However, total associated jobs are up by 19% on last year to 89,866, of which 34,077 were new jobs and 55,789 safeguarded jobs

Research and development projects up by 62% to 164 projects

Pharmaceuticals and biotechnology are up 19% to 98 projects.

Software projects are up 26% to 150 and IT and e-commerce projects are up 12% to 134

26% of projects were expansions by existing investors, which generated 65% of all the new jobs created

Mergers/acquisitions and joint ventures were up 42% on last year.

UK Investment Position: first Quarter 2006

The UK surplus on direct investment income was £11.8 billion in Q1 2006, up from the revised surplus of £8.9 billion in Q4 2005. UK earnings from direct investment abroad were £21.2 billion in the same period. Foreign earnings from direct investment in the UK fell to £9.4 billion in Q1 2006 compared with £11.8 billion in Q4 2005.

Portfolio investment income recorded a surplus of £0.6 billion in Q1 2006 compared to a surplus of £0.4 billion in the previous quarter. UK earnings on holdings of foreign securities rose by £1.1 billion in Q1 2006, to £13.1 billion. Foreign earnings on portfolio investment in the UK rose by £0.9 billion in Q1 to £12.4 billion.

The deficit on earnings from other investment widened in the latest period to a £5.1 billion, compared with a deficit of £4.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2005. UK earnings on other investment abroad were £20.6 billion, an increase of £2.5 billion from the previous quarter. Earnings on other investment in the UK increased by £3.1 billion, to £25.7 billion.

The financial account showed a net outflow (Outward Investment) of £2.1 billion in Q1 2006, compared with a net inflow (Inward investment) of £2.8 billion, in Q4 2005. There was net investment abroad of £365.8 billion and net investment in the UK of £363.7 billion in Q1 2006, both of which are the highest on record.

Direct investment abroad showed net investment of £28.1 billion in Q1 2006, compared with investment of £13.2 billion in Q4 2005. Direct investment into the UK showed net investment of £35.7 billion in Q1 2006 compared with a net disinvestment of £2.8 billion in Q4 2005.

Portfolio investment abroad showed net investment of £61.7 billion in Q1 2006, compared with net investment of £32.9 billion in Q4 2005 and Portfolio investment in the UK showed net investment of £44.6 billion in Q1 2006, compared with net investment of £35.5 billion in Q4 2005.

Other investment abroad showed net investment of £270.5 in Q1 2006, the highest on record, compared with net investment of £49.8 billion in Q4 2005. Other investment in the UK showed investment of £283.3 billion in Q1 2006, also the highest on record, compared with investment of £66.3 billion in Q4 2005.

The International Investment position showed net external liabilities of £180 billion at the end of Q1 2006 compared with net external liabilities of £168.9 billion at the end of 2005. UK assets abroad rose by £397.5 billion from the

end of Q4 2005 to reach £5234.6 billion at the end of Q1 2006. UK liabilities rose by £408.7 billion over the same period to reach £5414.7 billion.

London sees 15.4% Jump in FDI

London experienced a 15.4% increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects over the past year according to figures published by UK Trade & Investment.

London attracted 323 new FDI projects between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006. These projects generated 4,412 new jobs, representing an 11.6% increase in numbers of new jobs compared with the previous year. The figures also show that 2,340 jobs generated by foreign-owned companies were safeguarded in London.

While North America accounts for the biggest source of FDI into London, emerging markets are playing an increasingly important role. Figures show that India is now the UK's third largest source of FDI investment. Over 32 Indian companies expanded into London last year creating 547 jobs. Foreign investment from China, Brazil and Russia looks set to accelerate over the coming years and these markets are likely to become increasingly important sources for FDI projects and job creation in London and the UK.

London ranks as Europe's number one destination for FDI according to the Ernst & Young European Investment Monitor. London now attracts over 5.7% of all FDI into Europe, which represents the highest share for any European city.

US

US Net International Investment Position at Yearend 2005

The US net international investment position at yearend 2005 was -\$2,693.8 billion with direct investment valued at current cost, as the value of foreign investments in the United States exceeded the value of US investments abroad. At yearend 2004, the US net international investment position was -\$2,360.8 billion (revised).

The -\$333.0 billion change in the net investment position from yearend 2004 to yearend 2005 was largely due to record private net foreign purchases of US securities and to depreciation of most major foreign currencies against the US dollar, which lowered the dollar value of US owned assets abroad

With direct investment valued at the current stock market value of owners' equity, the net investment position was -\$2,546.2 billion (preliminary) at yearend 2005, compared with -\$2,448.7 billion (revised) at yearend 2004. The -\$97.4 billion change in the net investment position on this basis resulted from the same factors as above.

Foreign acquisitions of assets in the United States were \$1,212.3 billion in 2005, down from \$1,450.2 billion in 2004. Foreign direct investment in the United States increased \$109.8 billion, down from an increase of \$133.2 billion in 2004.

US acquisitions of assets abroad were \$426.8 billion in 2005, down from a record \$867.8 billion in 2004, as US direct investment abroad slowed sharply from last year's pace. US direct investment abroad increased only \$9.1 billion, down from an increase of \$244.1 billion in 2004.

US owned assets abroad increased \$822.0 billion to \$10,008.7 billion with US direct investment abroad valued at current cost, and they increased \$1,003.9 billion to \$11,079.2 billion with US direct investment abroad valued at market value.

US direct investment abroad valued at current cost increased \$54.7 billion to \$2,453.9 billion, mostly as a result of price appreciation. Financial transactions increased US direct investment abroad \$9.1 billion, down sharply from last year's increase of \$244.1 billion. At market value, US direct investment abroad increased \$236.6 billion to \$3,524.5 billion.

Foreign-owned assets in the United States increased \$1,155.0 billion to \$12,702.5 billion with foreign direct investment in the United States valued at current cost, and they increased \$1,101.3 billion to \$13,625.4 billion with foreign direct investment in the United States valued at market value.

Foreign direct investment in the United States valued at current cost increased \$147.2 billion to \$1,874.3 billion, mostly as a result of financial transactions. At market value, foreign direct investment in the United States increased \$93.5 billion to \$2,797.2 billion.

US Investment Position: First Quarter 2006

In Q1 2006, income receipts on US owned assets abroad increased to \$140.1 billion from \$130.4 billion. Income payments on foreign owned assets in the US increased to \$136.6 billion from \$131 billion.

Net recorded financial inflows- net acquisitions by foreign residents of assets in the US less net acquisitions by US residents of assets abroad- were \$157.6 billion in Q1 2006, down from \$242.7 billion in Q4 2005. Financial outflows for US owned assets abroad increased more than financial inflows for foreign owned assets in the United States.

US owned assets abroad increased \$333.9 billion in the first quarter, following an increase of \$10.7 billion in Q4 2005. Foreign owned assets in the US increased £491.6 billion in Q1 2006, following an increase of \$253.4 billion in Q4 2005.

Net financial flows for US direct investment abroad shifted to net outflows of \$61.8 billion in Q1 2006 from net inflows of \$25.8 billion in Q4 2005. Net financial inflows for foreign direct investment in the US were \$33.3 billion in Q1 2006, up from \$26.5 billion in Q4 2005.

OECD - Trends & Developments in Foreign Direct Investment

Direct investment into OECD countries picked up in 2005 and reached an estimated \$622 billion. This represents a 27% increase over 2004. In consequence, 2005 became the fourth-highest year on record in terms of inward FDI flows to OECD countries. Total OECD outflows dropped slightly, by around 8% to reach an estimated \$716 billion in 2005. The 2005 outflows were influenced in a one-off drop in US figures estimated at \$100 billion. Consequently, the United States lost its role as the world's largest outward investor. This role was assumed by France followed by United Kingdom. In consequence of large inflows and even larger outflows, the OECD area continued to act as a major net outward direct investor. The estimated net outflows in 2005 were \$95 billion.

In the United States net FDI inflows were \$110 billion in 2005. This represents an 18% decrease from 2004 (\$133 billion). US outward direct investment in 2005 fell from its habitually high levels to almost zero.

With inflows of \$165 billion (£91 billion) United Kingdom was the world's largest recipient of inward FDI in 2005. This is the largest inward direct investment flow ever recorded in the United Kingdom. The rise in FDI in the UK was due in part to the restructuring of multi-national firms, and in part due to several large cross-border mergers and acquisitions. Outward FDI grew from \$95 billion in 2004 to \$101 billion in 2005.

France continued to attract large direct investment inflows. FDI into France more than doubled from \$31 billion in 2004 to \$64 billion in 2005. France was the world's largest outward direct investor in 2005. Total outflows for the year as a whole were estimated at \$116 billion.

Total FDI outflows from Japan in 2005 were \$46 billion, up from \$31 billion in 2004. Inward direct investment in 2005, at 3 billion was low in comparison with other large economies. Germany FDI inflows and outflows recovered in 2005. Outflows totalled \$46 billion and inward direct investment was \$33 billion.

FDI inflows to Canada bounced back in 2005. Total inward FDI at \$34 billion, reached its second highest level

ever. Among the relatively new OECD member countries, the Czech Republic was successful in attracting \$11 billion FDI Inflows.

Over the last decade, net outflows from OECD countries reached \$1062 billion. France, the United Kingdom, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Spain have been OECD's main net exporters of FDI over this period. By contrast, the United States was among the largest net recipients of direct investment over the last decade.

While merger & acquisitions (M&A) are only one element in total FDI inflows, in many OECD countries they account for more than half of total direct investment. Since 2003, the value of both inward and outward M&As in OECD countries have doubled. Cross-border M&As with the acquirer located in the OECD areas were valued at \$671 billion in 2005. M&As targeting companies in OECD countries were a bit lower at \$627 billion. In the first five months of 2006 total outward M&As worth \$217 billion were recorded and inflows amounted to \$213 billion. If these numbers are taken to be indicative for 2006 as a whole than total 2006 outward flows could amount to around \$565 billion and inflows to some \$555 billion. On current trends, both inward & outward FDI in the OECD area could stay unchanged or decline slightly in 2006.

FDI Flows to non-OECD Countries in 2005

Among the non-OECD countries, Brazil confirmed its position as the world's foremost destination for direct investment to developing and emerging economies outside Asia. Inflows of \$15 billion to this country in 2005 were the largest in South America. Inward FDI in Argentina was close to \$5 billion. Direct investment in to Chile at \$7 billion was almost unchanged in 2005. Direct investment in Israel jumped in 2005 to reach \$6 billion, more than three times the levels recorded in 2004. Israel is also one of the most active outward investors among the smaller non-member economies. Total outflows exceeded \$2 billion in 2005. Inward investment in Romania in 2005 remained high at \$6.5 billion for the second year in a row. Among the largest non-member economies, as a destination for FDI china remains in a class of its own. Total inflows in 2005 were estimated at \$72 billion. FDI into India continues to grow. Inward direct investment in 2005 was \$6.5 billion. Russian inward investment estimated at \$14.5 billion in 2005, remains at a high level. South Africa experienced massive FDI inflows in 2005 of close to \$6.5 billion.

3. NEW INVESTMENTS

US Investments into the UK

Reflexis Systems Opens European Office

Reflexis Systems, the pioneer and leader in Retail Execution Management has opened its European headquarters in the Canary Wharf section of London. The office will be the company's second location in the UK and will focus on expanding the Reflexis customer base while supporting existing Reflexis customers throughout Europe. Reflexis also announced the appointment of Peter Casey as EMEA Sales Director for Reflexis.

Reflexis Systems, Inc. 1420 Providence Highway, Norwood, MA 02062. Tel: 001-781 278 9919 Fax: 001-781 278 9959, Prashanth Palakurthi, Chairman & CEO, Email: sales@reflexinc.com Website: www.reflexinc.com

Reflexis Systems (UK) Limited, The Octagon, Number 2 Harbour Exchange Square, London, E14 9GE. Tel: 020 7363 0885. Peter Casey, EMEA Sales Director

IDI Composites Launches New UK Plant

Indiana-based plastics firm IDI Composites International has announced the launch of a new manufacturing facility in Birmingham to serve its growing number of European customers. IDI Composites International (IDI) is the premier global formulator and manufacturer of thermoset molding compounds for custom molders and OEMs.

IDI Composites International, 407 S. 7th Street, Noblesville, IN 46060. Tel: 001-317 773 1766 Fax: 001-317 773 3877 Email: info@idicomposites.com Website: www.idicomposites.com

Industrial Dielectrics (UK) Ltd, Unit One, Oldbury Park, Popes Lane, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 4RG. Tel: 0121 552 0038 Fax: 0121 543 5377 Email: pgarland@idicomposites.co.uk

Klipmart Expands to the UK

Klipmart Corporation, which is the US pioneer and largest provider of online video advertising and management solutions for web publishers, agencies and marketers, has opened an office in London as it seeks to expand its business to the UK and Europe. Becca Ratcliffe, who worked at Klipmart in New York several years ago will head the UK office and oversee Klipmart's European expansion.

Klipmart Corporation, 3 Park Ave, New York, NY 10016-5902. Tel: 001-212 481 5547 Fax: 001-212 725 6063, Website: www.klipmart.com

Entragrativ Moves Strategic Base to the UK

Entragrativ, Inc. ("Entragrativ"), a California-based company and leader in touch-less wireless interactive terminals for blue-chip companies in the medical, retail, industrial and enterprise markets, announced that the company has successfully completed the relocation of its headquarters, R&D unit and operations to the UK to take better advantage of the growing market for advanced interactive terminals in Europe.

Entragrativ Inc., 27881 La Paz Road, G-315, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677. John Hendel, CEO, Tel: 001-949 273 0585, Website: www.entragrativ.com

Entragrativ Limited, 9 Old Hall Mews, Heaton, Bolton, Gt. Manchester BL1 7PW. Tel: 020 8133 2910

Vidacare Corporation Opens UK Office

Texas-based medical technology firm Vidacare, has opened its first international office in the UK at Heathfield, East Sussex.

Vidacare Corporation, 722 Isom Road, San Antonio, TX 78216. Tel: 001-210 375 8500 Fax: 001-210 375 8537, Website: www.vidacare.com

Vidacare (UK) Ltd, High Street, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8LS, Tel: 01435 866941, Diane Sweeney, Country Manager, Email: diane.Sweeney@vidacare.com

International Rectifier to Expand Welsh Plant

California-based semiconductor company International Rectifier has announced it is to expand its Newport plant in Wales with the creation of up to 200 highly-skilled jobs. International rectifier is a provider of power management technology systems.

International Rectifier, World Headquarters, 233 Kansas Street, El Segundo, CA 90245. Tel: 001-310 252 7105 Fax: 001-310 252 7903

International Rectifier European Regional Centre, The Omnibus Building, Lesbourne Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 7JP. Tel: 01737 227200 Fax: 01737 227201

UK Investments into the US

Air-Powered Device Lifts people Safely After A Fall

The hazards of lifting people after a fall are overcome with an easy-to-use device from British company, Mangar International. The *CAMEL (Complete Air Moving Elevating Lift)* is a state-of-the-art, air-powered cushion, developed by the company, that not only lifts the person who has fallen, but places them in a sitting position in a stress-free procedure. As it is battery operated, the device can be used anywhere, and it packs away into a compact bag for easy transportation. Mangar International recently opened an office in Marietta, Georgia, to promote its wide range of products in the USA, all designed to assist in bathing, moving or handling elderly, disabled, or obese people. In 2005, the *CAMEL* device was the first UK product to win an award at the Medtrade show in Atlanta – the Providers' Choice Award for optimal best use of technology. The company would welcome inquiries from potential distributors.

Andrew Macphail, Mangar International Ltd, Presteigne, Powys, Wales LD8 2UF Tel: 01544 267674 Fax: 01544 260287 Email: amacphail@mangar.co.uk Web site: www.mangarinternational.com

Celebrity Choice of Designer baths Comes to USA

A collection of luxury, handmade baths, said to be the choice of stars such as Paul McCartney and Victoria and David Beckham in Europe, are heading for the USA. *The Clearwater Collection* - from the British company of the same name - is a range of freestanding acrylic baths designed and manufactured in the UK to an extra-high

specification or so-called "Supa Spec", offering premium finish quality. To service the American market, the company has opened a local subsidiary, Clearwater America Inc., based in North Haven, Connecticut and, to date, has appointed 18 agents and 52 sub-agents across the country. For more information, visit www.clearwater-collection.com.

UK Contact: Heather Fulthorpe, Clearwater Collection Ltd, Enterprise House, Ironworks Park Bowling Back Lane, Bradford BD4 8SX Tel: 01274 738140 Fax: 01274 732461 Email: heather@clearwater-collection.com Website: www.clearwater-collection.com

US Contact: Clearwater America Inc. 36 Nettleton Ave, North Haven, CT 06473 Tel: 001-203 603 9797 Fax: 001-203 603 9680 Email: tony@clearwater-america.com Website: www.clearwater-america.com

New Style Tray for Serving Drinks Safely

An innovative new tray has been designed specifically for serving drinks in stemmed glasses. It is said to reduce breakages and spillages by around 90%. Designed by Richard Siddle, a former butler at a top London hotel and now a contract caterer, the *Siddle Safe Tray*, is manufactured and marketed exclusively by British company Continental Chef Supplies Ltd. Unlike conventional trays, the *Siddle Safe Tray* is designed so that the stems of the glasses hang beneath the tray, while the bowls of the glasses rest securely on it. There are two parts to the product: a base tray for positioning and filling the glasses; and a slotted top tray for carrying them. The company would welcome inquiries from potential agents or distributors.

Mrs Valda Goodfellow, Continental Chef Supplies Ltd, The Courtyard, South Hetton Industrial Estate County Durham DH6 2UZ, Tel: 0191 526 4107 Fax: 0191 526 8399

E-mail: chrissie.beatty@chefs.net Web site: www.chefs.net

Quester Establishes US West Coast Office

Quester, one of the UK's leading independent venture capital companies, announced the appointment of Rudy Burger as Director of US Business Development. Rudy will open an office for Quester in San Francisco. Rudy will concentrate on working with Quester portfolio companies to develop and implement their strategies for growing their North American business activities, and assisting with their equity fund-raising in the United States.

Quester, 29 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BU. Tel: 020 7222 5472 Fax: 020 7222 5250, Simon Acland, Managing Director, Email: contact@quester.co.uk website: www.quester.co.uk

Quester, 2420 Sand Hill Road, San Francisco, CA, Rudy Burger, Director of US Business Development, Tel: 001-650 452 6216

AKE Group Opens Atlanta Office

AKE Group, which has its headquarters in Hereford announces further expansion in the US. A leader in international political and security risk reduction and training, AKE provides a range of specialized services that empower businesses, NGO's and media organizations to protect their staff and their assets when operating in hostile and challenging environments. AKE tackles risk with a total solution from consulting on political and security issues to location and medical audits and evacuation.

AKE Ltd, Mortimer House, Holmer Road, Hereford HR4 9TA Tel: 01432 267111 Fax: 01432 350227, Andrew Kain, Managing Director Email: services@akegroup.com Website: www.akegroup.com

AKE Ltd, Gallery 4, Lloyd's Building, 12 Leadenhall Street, London EC3V 1LP. Tel: 020 7816 5454 Fax: 020 7816 5455, Tom Howard, Business Development Manager, Email: tom.howard@akegroup.com

AKE LLC, 2985 Gordy Parkway, Suite 118, Marietta, GA 30066 Tel: 001- 678 560, Tim Crockett, Executive Director, Email: servicesusa@akagroup.com Website: www.akegroup.com

Imagination Technologies Opens US Headquarters

Imagination Technologies, a UK-based provider of system-on-chip intellectual property, has established in North America with the opening of a US headquarters in San Diego. Heading US operations will be Peter McGuinness, Director of Business Development and Graeme Finlayson, Director of Sales. Imagination Technologies develops and licenses innovative silicon and software intellectual property (IP) for system-on-chip (SoC) devices targeting multimedia and communication applications.

Imagination Technologies Ltd, Head office, Imagination House, Home Park Estate, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire WD4 8LZ. Tel: 01923 260511 Fax: 01923 268969 website: www.imgtec.com

Imagination Technologies Inc (US office), 16870 West Bernardo Drive, Suite 407, San Diego, CA 02127. Tel: 001-858 674 6644 Fax: 001-858 674 6645

4. TRADE SHOWS

UK

3-6 September 2006 – Autumn Fair, NEC, Birmingham

Giftware and household products.

Tel: 020 8277 5800 Website: www.autumnfair.com

6-7 September 2006 – Instrumentation Scotland and Offshore Systems, AECC Aberdeen

Offshore oil exploration and exploitation.

Tel: 01822 614 671 Email: info@trident-exhibitions.co.uk Website: www.instrumentation.co.uk

10-12 September 2006 – Top Drawer Autumn, Olympia, London

Giftware and interior accessories.

Tel: 020 7370 8200 Website: www.topdrawer.co.uk

US

Upcoming trade shows for August 2006 that have been selected to participate in the US Commercial Service's International Buyer Program.

28-31 August 2006 - MAGIC – Summer 2006, Las Vegas Convention Centre, Las Vegas, Nevada

MAGIC connects a global audience of buyers and sellers of men's, women's and children's apparel and accessories. Thousands of retailers come to the MAGIC marketplace to access more than 3,600 manufacturers showcasing over 5,000 brands and private label resources.

For more details contact Marcella Marcheso, Tel: 020 7894 0419 Email: Marchella.Marcheso@mail.doc.gov

For a more comprehensive listing of all our Trade Events, please visit, ExportGov.

5. OTHEDR

The Fairfax County EDA and other US agencies work closely with UK Government on "Science for Security" Trade Mission

British companies involved in the security technology area are invited to express their interest in joining what promises to be the most high level and largest trade mission to the US for a considerable time. Companies interested in taking part are asked to register their interest by August 7 at www.uktradeinvestusa.com/scienceforsecurity.

*Members of the British American Business Council
and the European Council of American Chambers of Commerce*