

## THINK LONDON NEWS RELEASE

Monday 25 February, 2008

### AMERICAN FDI INTO LONDON SHOWS NO SIGN OF ABATING

- On track for 27 per cent increase year on year
- Think London gears up US team with key hire

Despite the global economic slowdown, foreign direct investment from North America into London continues to grow. New figures show that inward investment from North American companies assisted by Think London, the foreign direct investment agency for London grew by 27 per cent over the same period last year.

This growth, spurred primarily by the continued investment of US technology firms into London, has led to Think London gearing up its US presence by announcing the appointment of Richard Stanaro to the Executive Management Team as Director of Business Development for North America.

Based in San Francisco, Richard will be responsible for managing the Business Development Team in the San Francisco, New York and London offices, and for overseeing the handling of investment projects into London against global competition.

Commenting on his new role, Richard Stanaro said: "Think London's increased presence in North America, confirms the importance of US and Canadian inward investment to London's economy. I am excited by the challenge and grateful to be part of this realignment here and in London that will serve to deliver an even faster and targeted service to our clients and partners."

Michael Charlton, Chief Executive, Think London commented: "The US is a key market for us, and these latest figures show that companies looking to globalise still choose London. Our research shows that companies generate a better return on investment in London than anywhere else in Europe, and our US team, headed up by Richard is perfectly poised to help US companies realise that growth."

Think London is a non-profit organisation and provides free, confidential and comprehensive advice to help international businesses set up and succeed in London.

Think London has a well established track record of helping businesses establish themselves in the capital and has helped more than 1,000 companies from 43 countries since 1994.

**For more information about how Think London can help your business visit:**

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**Note to Editors:**

#### **About Think London**

Think London is the foreign direct investment agency for London. We connect international businesses to London, helping them set up, succeed and grow. We are a not-for-profit, private-public partnership delivering expertise and advice to international businesses. Our service is completely free, comprehensive and confidential. Our experts work with government and the business community to help companies access the best people, places and opportunities in the city. Think London's principal funding partners are the London Development Agency (LDA) and London's business community, through London First. Other key partners are the City of London Corporation, which also provides funding, and UK Trade & Investment. [www.thinklondon.com](http://www.thinklondon.com)

#### **About London Development Agency**

The London Development Agency (LDA) is the Mayor's agency for business and jobs and the principal funder of Think London. The LDA will continue to give strong support to Think London as part of a wide-ranging package of help for firms in the capital. As well as attracting overseas investors to London and working to keep them in the capital, the Agency is strengthening the support it gives to London's start-up firms, and small and medium-sized companies, including exporters. Last year, the LDA helped safeguard over 3,000 jobs in London by troubleshooting problems that impact on the commercial success of firms in the capital and providing creative solutions to them. [www.lda.gov.uk](http://www.lda.gov.uk)

#### **About Richard Stanaro**

Richard Stanaro joined Think London in January 2007 to open the Western U.S. office located in San Francisco, California, and has been instrumental in growing the business, assisting companies in the technology and professional services sectors amongst others. He brings with him 25 years of experience developed in accountancy, finance, international development and international banking. Prior to joining Think London, Richard worked as a Senior Banker for The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development where he evaluated investment opportunities and financed projects.