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## 1. **ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

### UK

- CPI annual inflation was 2.5% in February 2008, up from 2.2% in January. RPI inflation was 4.1% in February, unchanged from January.
- In February 2008, output price annual inflation for all manufactured products remained at 5.7%. Input price annual inflation rose from 18.9% in January to 19.4% in February.
- Manufacturing output remained unchanged in the three months to January 2008 compared with the three months to October 2007.
- Employment rate for people of working age was 74.8% for the three months to January 2008. The number of people in employment for the three months to January 2008 was 29.46 million. This is up 166,000 over the quarter and up 367,000 over the year. The unemployment rate was 5.2% for the three months to January 2008, down 0.1% over the previous quarter and down 0.3% over the year. The number of unemployed people decreased by 32,000 over the quarter and by 89,000 over the year to reach 1.61 million.
- Public sector employment increased by 7,000 in Q4 2007 to 5.778 million. Employment in the private sector increased by 159,000 in Q4 2007.
- Average earnings including bonuses rose by 3.7% in the year to January 2008, down from 3.8% in December 2007. Average earnings excluding bonuses, rose by 3.7% in the year to January, unchanged from December. In the year to January 2008 pay growth (including bonuses) in the private sector was 3.8%, compared with 3.5% for the public sector. Excluding bonus payments, private sector growth stood at 3.7% compared with 3.6% for the public sector.
- The retail sales volume in the three months December 2007 to February 2008 rose by 1% compared with the previous three months. This follows 0.7% growth in the three months to January.
- In February 2008, the public sector showed a surplus on current budget of £2.0 billion, compared with a surplus of £0.7 billion in February 2007.
- Business investment for Q4 2007 is estimated to be 5.3% higher than the same period of last year, and 1.8% higher than the previous quarter.

- Total net investment by insurance companies, pension funds and trusts was provisionally estimated to be £11.3 billion in Q4 2007, £29.6 billion lower than the high figure for the third quarter of 2007.
- The UK's deficit on trade in goods and services was £4.1 billion in January 2008, the same as the revised deficit in December 2007 (originally published as a deficit of £4.7 billion). The deficit with the EU narrowed to £3.2 billion, compared with £3.4 billion in December 2007 and the deficit with non-EU countries widened to £4.3 billion compared with a deficit of £4.1 billion in December 2007.

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

## LONDON

- In the most recent 28-day period, (From 6 January 2008 to 2 February 2008) London's Underground and buses had 254.2 million passenger journeys; 170.3 million by bus and 83.9 million by underground.
- The moving average annual rate of growth in passenger journeys increased to 6.8% from 6.7% in the previous period.
- The rate of claimant count unemployment in London was 2.6% in February 2008. There were 132,500 unemployment claimants in London in February 2008, compared with 159,400 in February 2007.
- London's annual growth in output remained the same in Q3 2007, as the upwardly revised 4.6% in Q2 2007.
- London's annual employment growth increased to 1.6% in Q3 2007 from a downwardly revised 0.1% in Q2 2007.
- Annual house price inflation in London decreased to 15.2% in Q4 2007, from 17.5% in Q3 2007. Annual house price inflation in the UK decreased to 10.1% in Q4 2007 from 11.5% in Q3.
- 8.9 million passengers travelled through London's airports in February 2008. The number of passengers using London's airports increased by 3.5% from February 2007 to February 2008.
- The SPSL Retail Traffic Index of shoppers in London was 80.6 in the first week of March 2008 compared to 83.9 in the previous week.
- The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) of business activity recorded 56.4 in February 2008 compared to 53.4 in January 2008.
- The PMI for level of employment in London firms was 52.8 in February 2008 compared to 53.1 in January 2008.
- The PMI for new orders for London firms recorded 53.4 in February 2008 compared to 52.9 in January 2008.

## US

- January 2008 exports of \$148.2 billion and imports of \$206.4 billion resulted in a goods and services deficit of \$58.2 billion, up from \$57.9 billion in December 2007. January exports were \$2.4 billion more than December exports of \$145.9 billion. January imports were \$2.7 billion more than December imports of \$203.7 billion. In January 2008, the goods and services deficit was up \$0.8 billion from January 2007. Exports were up \$21.1 billion, or 16.6% and imports were up \$21.9 billion, or 11.9%.
- The US current account deficit was \$172.9 billion in Q4 2007, down from \$177.4 billion in the third quarter. For the full year 2007, the US current account deficit was \$738.6 billion, down from \$811.5 billion in 2006.

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

<http://www.bea.gov/index.htm>

## NY

- Private employment rose by 15,100 jobs in January 2008, after a decrease of 4,000 jobs in December 2007. (Source: New York State Dept. of Labour)
- The unemployment rate rose to 5.7% in January 2008, from 5.1% in December 2007. (Source: New York State Dept. of Labour)
- The NYC hotel occupancy rate in January 2008 was 75.9%, up from 74.8% in January 2007. (Source: New York State Dept. of Labour)
- The Manhattan Direct Class A office vacancy rate was 4.3% in February 2008, while the average asking rent

was \$83 per SF. (Source: New York State Dept. of Labour)

- Passengers in NYC's airports totaled 8.8 million in December 2007, down 0.4% from December 2006. (Source: New York State Dept. of Labour)

- In February 2008, direct vacancy rates in Downtown areas fell 0.2% to 2.9%, while direct office rental rates remained at \$60 PSF. (Source: Metropolitan Transportation Authority)

- In February 2008, Midtown Class A direct office vacancy rates fell 0.1% to 4.9% while average rental rates increased \$1 to \$86 PSF. (Source: Metropolitan Transportation Authority)

- The total Manhattan sublease vacancy rate was 1.1% in February 2008, the same level as in January. (Source: Metropolitan Transportation Authority)

- In December 2007, 8.8 million passengers flew into and out of the region's airports, a 0.4% decrease from December 2006 passenger levels. (Source: Port Authority of New York and New Jersey)

- In January 2008, the average daily hotel room rate was \$262, a 10% increase from January 2007. (Source: PKF Consulting)

- Hotel occupancy was 75.9% in January 2008, up from 74.8 % in January 2007. (Source: PKF Consulting)

- Broadway attendance during the five weeks ending March 2, 2008 was approximately 1.1 million, a 2.3% increase from the same period last year. Broadway revenue during this period was roughly \$79 million, a 0.1% decrease from last year. (Source: The Broadway League)

- Total ridership on MTA subways, trains and buses in December 2007 was roughly 205 million, an increase of 0.2% from December 2006. In December 2007, subway ridership was roughly 130 million, an increase of 1.5% from December 2006. (Source: Metropolitan Transportation Authority)

- For the four months ending January 2008: There were 2,116 building projects (including new, additions and alterations) that started construction in NYC, a 5% decrease from the four months ending January 2007. There were 79 infrastructure (non-building) project starts, a decrease of 5% from last year. (Source: Dodge Analytics)

- Planned space for building project starts is approximately 11.2 million square feet, a 36% decrease from the same period last year. (Source: Dodge Analytics)

## **2. INVESTMENT INDICATORS**

### UK/US/Global

#### Mergers and Acquisitions involving UK Companies – Fourth Quarter 2007

Expenditure on acquisitions abroad by UK companies increased from £10.2 billion in Q3 2007 to £25.8 billion in Q4 2007.

Expenditure on acquisitions in the UK by foreign companies decreased from £15.3 billion in Q3 2007 to £8.2 billion in Q4 2007.

Expenditure on acquisitions in the UK by UK companies decreased from £7.8 billion in Q3 2007 to £2.7 billion in Q4 2007.

#### US Investment Position: Fourth Quarter 2007

In Q4 2007, income receipts on US owned assets abroad decreased to \$203.5 billion from \$205.7 billion. Income payments on foreign owned assets in the United States decreased to \$168.8 billion from \$182.6 billion.

Net financial inflows- net acquisitions by foreign residents of assets in the United States less net acquisitions by US residents of assets abroad were \$230.1 billion in Q4 2007, up from \$111.1 billion in Q3. Net acquisitions by foreign residents picked up, and net acquisitions by US residents slowed.

US owned assets abroad increased \$116.5 billion in Q4 2007, following an increase of \$174 billion in Q3. Foreign owned assets in the United States increased \$346.6 billion in Q4 2007, following an increase of \$276.6 billion in Q3.

US direct investment abroad increased \$116.4 billion in Q4 2007, following an increase of \$58.7 billion in the third. Foreign direct investment in the United States increased \$39.9 billion in Q4 2007, following an increase of \$101.3

billion in the third.

### US Investment Position for the year 2007

In 2007, income receipts on US owned assets abroad increased to \$779.3 billion from \$647.6 billion. Income payments on foreign owned assets in the United States increased to \$698.2 billion from \$604.4 billion.

Net financial inflows- net acquisitions by foreign residents of assets in the United States less net acquisitions by US residents of assets abroad were \$657.4 billion in 2007, down from \$833.2 billion in 2006. Net acquisitions by US residents increased much more than net acquisitions by foreign residents.

US owned assets abroad increased \$1,206.3 billion in 2007, following an increase of \$1,055.2 billion in 2006. Foreign-owned assets in the United States increased \$1,863.7 billion in 2007, following an increase of \$1,859.6 billion in 2006.

US direct investment abroad increased \$335.4 billion in 2007, following an increase of \$235.4 billion in 2006. Foreign direct investment in the United States increased \$204.4 billion in 2007, following an increase of \$180.6 billion in 2006.

### Global Foreign Direct Investment Grows to Almost \$1 Trillion in 2007, 20% Increase in FDI Capital Expenditure in US

OCO Global, the leading authority on foreign investment, released its global foreign direct investment (FDI) data for 2007. The data, revealed that the volume of international cross-border foreign direct investment grew by 5.1% in 2007 reaching \$947 billion. This data relates to new and expansion FDI projects that were announced by companies during 2007. The capital investment associated with these projects is expected to create an estimated 2.9 million new jobs globally.

The US was a strong performer in 2007, ranking 2nd globally for numbers of projects, ahead of India which ranked 2nd in 2006. In 2007, announced investment created more than 107,000 jobs in the US, representing \$46 billion of investment, a 20% increase over 2006. The States which attracted the most investment were California, New York and Texas, with Florida and Pennsylvania also featuring in the Top 10 of preferred destinations for foreign companies expanding in the US. The leading investor countries into the US are Japan, UK and Germany.

The US remained the #1 source country for FDI projects globally and investment from US companies accounted for approximately 25% of all company investment activity on a global level in 2007.

Asia-Pacific remained the number one region for global FDI in 2007, attracting \$395 billion of investment, or 40% market share. The volume of FDI in Asia-Pacific grew by 20% in 2007, demonstrating its continued attractiveness for multinational corporate investment.

In 2007, China retained its position as the world's top destination for multinational investment, attracting \$90 billion in projects, down from a peak of \$116 billion in 2006. Of the estimated 1.2 million jobs created in Asia-Pacific by FDI in 2007, China attracted 366,000, regaining the top position in the job stakes from India. (India attracted 246,361 new jobs in 2007, 45% less than in 2006, which may be attributed to the tightening of the Indian job market.)

With the current financial instability likely to continue for much of 2008, FDI is almost certainly set to become an even more important component of capital investment and job creation in all regions of the world. The challenge for 2008 is to develop a highly competitive and flexible business environment to attract investment while providing a robust regulatory framework to provide security and long term economic benefits.

### **3. NEW INVESTMENTS**

## US Investments into the UK

### **PeerApp Ltd. Opens EMEA Office in the United Kingdom**

PeerApp Ltd. the innovator in Intelligent Media Caching, announced the opening of its European, Middle Eastern and Africa (EMEA) office in the UK. Mr. Guy Powell, Vice President for EMEA Operations, will lead the expansion of PeerApp's business in this important region. PeerApp is a leading supplier of Intelligent Media Caching Solutions for ISPs worldwide. Based on patented P2P caching and acceleration technology, PeerApp solutions cache and accelerate content delivery, including P2P and HTTP downloads and video streams. PeerApp HQ, Echo Bridge Office Park, 375 Elliot Street, Suite 150K, Newton Upper Falls, MA 02464. Tel: 001-617 795 0977 Fax: 001-617 663 6280 Email: [info@peerapp.com](mailto:info@peerapp.com) Website: [www.peerapp.com](http://www.peerapp.com)  
PeerApp Ltd. P.O. Box 736, Haywards Heath, RH16 9FT. Mobile: 07770-915-881, Fax: 01444-459 968, Guy S. Powell, VP, EMEA Operations, Email: [guy@peerapp.com](mailto:guy@peerapp.com) Website: [www.peerapp.com](http://www.peerapp.com)

### **Blackmagic Design Opens New EMEA Sales Office in the UK**

Blackmagic Design announced that it has opened a new EMEA (Europe, Middle East, Africa) Office in the United Kingdom. In response to continuing sales growth and increasing market demands, this new European office will manage sales, business development, customer service and field support across the region. The new Blackmagic Design EMEA office is located in Cheshire and managed by Stuart Ashton, General Manager for Blackmagic Design EMEA. The office includes a team of sales, service, and support personnel that specializes in the EMEA professional video industry. Blackmagic Design Inc. manufactures the world's highest quality video cards and converters for the post production and television broadcast industries  
Blackmagic Design USA, 1551 McCarthy Blvd, Suite 106, Milpitas CA 95035. Tel: 001- 408 954 0500 Fax: 001-408 954 0508. Website: [www.blackmagic-design.com](http://www.blackmagic-design.com)  
Blackmagic Design Europe, Mere Hall Business Centre, Unit 3, Bucklow Hill Lane, Mere, Knutsford Cheshire, WA16 6LE. Tel: 01565 832848 Fax: 01565 830739, Stuart Ashton, General Manager, Email: [info-emea@blackmagic-design.com](mailto:info-emea@blackmagic-design.com)

### **VFA Establishes Operations in the United Kingdom**

VFA, Inc., the leading provider of end-to-end solutions for facilities capital planning and asset management, announced the establishment of a new operating unit in the United Kingdom, VFA Ltd., with offices in Reading. It is the company's first business unit outside of North America. VFA also announced the appointment of industry veteran Steve Hand as manager of sales in the U.K. VFA provides facility audit services, Web-based software and business consulting services to enable organisations to manage the entire capital asset lifecycle. The company cited increased demand for facilities capital management solutions in the U.K., particularly among multi-national corporations and the public sector, as driving the expansion.  
VFA, Inc. 266 Summer Street, Boston MA 02210-1112. Tel: 001-617 451 5100 Fax: 001-617 350 7087 Website: [www.vfa.com](http://www.vfa.com)  
VFA, Ltd. Davidson House, Forbury Square, Reading RG1 3EU. Tel: 0118 900 1695 fax: 0118 900 1696 Website: <http://www.vfa.com/uk>.

### **Acquire Media Opens London Office**

Acquire Media, the specialist supplier of news feed for Traders and Algorithmic Systems, announces the opening of a London office to cover Sales and Technical Support for the International market. Acquire Media are an advanced technology company devoted to delivering text news and multimedia with guaranteed reliability in formats that make content instantly usable and searchable. They serve the news, digital publishing and financial services communities. Acquire Media provides software and services supporting virtually every aspect of the digital content supply chain.  
Acquire Media, Corporate HQ, 3 Becker Farm Road, Suite 204, Roseland, NJ 07068. Tel: 001-973 422 0800 Fax: 001- 973 422 0028 Email: [info@acquiremedia.com](mailto:info@acquiremedia.com) Website: [www.acquiremedia.com](http://www.acquiremedia.com)  
Acquire Media, Golden Cross House, 8 Duncannon Street, London WC2N 4JF. Tel: 020 7484 8750

### **Last Exit Launches UK Office**

New York-headquartered digital design and marketing agency , Last Exit announced the launch of a UK Office and expansion of their digital capabilities. The new Office in London chases major opportunities in the UK digital market and offers comprehensive creative services. Last Exit is a Digital Agency that provides a range of digital services including strategy and research, campaign development, website design and build, search engine marketing and support and maintenance. With offices in New York and London, Last Exit serves a range of international and local business to consumer and business to business clients

Last Exit LLC, 247 Centre Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York NY 10013. Tel: 001-646 307 4340 , Nuri Djavit, Founder & Creative Director, Paul Newnes, Partner & Commercial Director, Email: [newyork@lastexit.tv](mailto:newyork@lastexit.tv)

Website: [www.lastexit.tv](http://www.lastexit.tv)

Last Exit LLC, Marvic House, Bishop's Road, London SW6 7AD. Tel: 0797 657 6920, Fred Brown, Partner & Managing Director, London, Email: [London@lastexit.tv](mailto:London@lastexit.tv)

### GE Money Moves HQ to London

GE Money, the personal finance arm of US conglomerate General Electric, is moving its global headquarters to London from the United States. The diversified company, which also owns considerable manufacturing and media assets, announced that William Cary had been named the new president and chief executive of GE Money. GE Money, which has over 200 billion dollars in assets, is a global business which provides credit services to consumers, retailers and auto dealers. The company currently provides credit cards and mortgages to 10 million customers in the UK and has revenues of \$25bn (£12bn) a year. Last year the division made half of its profits in Britain. GE Money currently employs 4000 people in the UK but the move is not expected to create a substantial number of new jobs. 200 people work in the company's existing headquarters in Stamford, Connecticut, the majority of whom will remain.

GE Money, 777 Long Ridge Road, Stamford, Connecticut 06927. Tel: 001-203 357 4000 Fax: 001-203 357 6829

Website: [www.gemoney.com](http://www.gemoney.com)

GE Money, 6 Agar St, London, WC2N 4HN. Tel: 020 7853 1710 Website: [www.gemoney.co.uk](http://www.gemoney.co.uk)

GE Money, Trent House, Torre Road, Leeds LS99 2BD Tel: 0113-280 7080

### Affiliated Managers Opens London Office

Affiliated Managers Group Inc., a diversified asset management company that refers to itself as AMG, announced the opening of an office in London. Affiliated Managers Group, Inc. is an asset management company with equity investments in a diverse group of growing, boutique investment management firms.

Affiliated Managers Group, Inc. 600 Hale Street, Prides Crossing, MA 01965. Tel: 001-617 747 3300 Fax: 001-617 747 3380 Email: [info@amg.com](mailto:info@amg.com) Website: [www.amg.com](http://www.amg.com)

Affiliated Managers Group Ltd, 21 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LY

### US Online Sales Agency Gorilla Nation Opens London Office

Gorilla Nation, a US online ad sales agency that specialises in delivering brand campaigns to big audiences across separately-owned websites, has opened a London office this month. Gorilla Nation is the world's largest online ad sales rep firm. They represent over 500 leading web publishers and offer integrated media and promotional programs to Fortune 500 brand advertisers.

Corporate Headquarters: Gorilla Nation Media, LLC, 5140 W Goldleaf Circle, Floor 3, Los Angeles, CA 90056. Tel: 001-310 449 1890 Fax: 001-310 449 1891, Website: [www.gorillanation.com](http://www.gorillanation.com)

Gorilla Nation Media (UK) Limited, 8-9 Frith Street, London W1D 3JB

### Core Systems Establishes US Operations

Northern Ireland-based company Core Systems has established an operation in Santa Rosa, California, operating under the name of Tusa Inc. Core Systems is an information technology company. Its main focus is the provision of IT systems and services to both private and public sector organisations throughout the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Core Systems, North City Business Centre, Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, N. Ireland BT15 2GG

Tel: +44 (0)28 9035 2277 Fax: +44 (0)28 9074 8434, Patricia O'Hagan, Managing Director, Email:

[support@coresystems.biz](mailto:support@coresystems.biz) or [sales@coresystems.biz](mailto:sales@coresystems.biz) Website: [www.coresystems.biz](http://www.coresystems.biz)

### UK Investments into the US

### **Barrie & Hibbert Opens Office in New York**

Barrie & Hibbert, market leading financial risk consultants and global provider of economic capital management expertise, announces the opening of its first office in North America. Barrie & Hibbert has been active in North America for a number of years, and the office opening reflects the company's commitment to enhancing its services to clients in the region. Craig Turnbull, Senior Consultant and UK actuary at Barrie & Hibbert's office in Edinburgh has moved to New York to head the team in US. Barrie & Hibbert's innovative financial modelling software is used by around two thirds of the European insurance industry and is increasingly used by major international financial services organisations in insurance, banking, pensions and wealth management. Founded in 1995, Barrie & Hibbert provides leading-edge, multi-asset, multi-economy capabilities that are used in a wider range of applications, including economic capital, capital management, market-consistent liability valuation, strategic asset allocation and product pricing and design.

Barrie & Hibbert Ltd, Clydesdale Bank Plaza, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 50 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9BY. Tel: 0131 625 0203 Fax: 0131 625 0215 Email: [info@barrhibb.com](mailto:info@barrhibb.com) Website: [www.barrhibb.com](http://www.barrhibb.com)

Barrie & Hibbert Ltd, 41 Lothbury, London EC2R 7HG. Tel: 020 3170 6145

Barrie & Hibbert Inc, 40 Wall Street, 28<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York NY 10005

### **UK-based Agency Steak Media Opens Office in New York**

Steak media, a UK-based digital marketing agency, has launched its first US-based office in New York. Steak is the search-led digital agency, offering search engine marketing (both search engine optimization and pay per click advertising), online reputation management, mobile search, digital media planning and buying, affiliate marketing and digital creative. Since Steak first launched in London in 2005, the agency has grown from strength to strength in the UK, being named 'Media Agency of the Year'. Their billings in 2007 were approximately \$50 million and they have experienced average year-on-year growth of 275%. Last Year Steak received venture capitalist funding from Beringea, an international private equity and investment banking firm, to expand into the US and Australian markets. Oliver Bishop, Steak's CEO, has re-located from London to launch Steak in the US and has appointed Chrysi Philalithes as Launch Managing Director..

Steak Media, 62-70 Shorts Gardens, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9AH. Tel: 020 7420 3500, Website: [www.steakmedia.co.uk](http://www.steakmedia.co.uk)

Steak Media, 116 West Houston Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, New York, NY 10012. Tel: 001- 646 358 1064, Website: [www.steakmedia.com](http://www.steakmedia.com)

### **Electrolube Expands into the US Market**

Electrolube, a division of HK Wentworth Ltd, has announced the opening of new corporate offices in California and a new Operations Center in Chicago. The manufacturer of high performance electro-chemicals is already well-known in Europe and Asia where their products are used extensively by the electronics and manufacturing industries. The move demonstrates Electrolube's continuing commitment to the US market and will enable them to provide even more support to their US customers. Electrolube's ambitious expansion plan for America was set in motion at the end of 2007, when Brian Moylan was appointed as General Manager of North American Operations for the newly branded HKW-USA, of which Electrolube is one of three divisions. The new offices will provide the US team with a base to build distribution channels, increase sales and marketing activities and enhance customer and technical support over the coming months

Electrolube , (A division of HK Wentworth Ltd), International Headquarters: Kingsbury Park, Midland Road, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE11 0AN. Tel: 01283 222111 Fax: 01283 550177 Email: [info@hkw.co.uk](mailto:info@hkw.co.uk)  
Website: [www.electrolube.com](http://www.electrolube.com)

Electrolube USA, 7101 Adams, Suite 8, Willowbrook, IL 60527. Tel: 001- 630 323 5100 Fax: 001-630 323 5101, Email [info@hkw.us.com](mailto:info@hkw.us.com)

### **FundWorks Opens North American Office in Boston**

FundWorks, a specialist provider of client communications solutions for the investment community has announced the opening of its North American office in Boston, MA to provide support for their growing customer base. The opening of the office will provide local implementation and helpdesk support for existing customers and provide

FundWorks with an operational centre to support the continuing strong interest in this market, for FundWorks' client reporting and communications solutions. FundWorks is the leading software engineering and technology firm to the global asset management industry.

FundWorks, 2 Finch Lane, London EC3V 3NA. Tel: 020 7763 6910 Fax: 020 7763 6911, Simon Rose, Managing Director, Philip Goffin, CEO, Email: [info@fundworks.com](mailto:info@fundworks.com) Website: [www.fundworks.com](http://www.fundworks.com)

#### **DLA Piper Opens Office in Houston**

UK-based legal firm DLA Piper has announced the opening of a new office in Houston, Texas. The three lawyers establishing DLA Piper's Houston office are Jack O'Neill, Mark White, and Jack Langlois. O'Neill and White, formerly of Howrey LLP, join the firm's Litigation and Regulatory practice while Langlois, formerly of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, joins the Corporate practice. The Houston office complements DLA Piper's existing practice in Texas, which includes 47 lawyers in the Dallas and Austin offices. The DLA Piper global organization has 3,700 lawyers in 25 countries and 64 offices throughout the U.S., U.K., Continental Europe, Middle East and Asia. It has highly regarded practices in corporate, finance, human resources, litigation, real estate, regulatory and legislative, tax, and technology, media and communications.

DLA Piper UK LLP, 3 Noble Street, London EC2V 7EE. Tel: 08700 111 111 Fax: 020 7796 6666. Website: [www.dlapiper.com](http://www.dlapiper.com)

DLA piper, Chase Tower, 600 Travis Street, Suite 1700, Houston, TX 77002-3009. Tel: 001-713 4258400 Fax: 001-713 425 8401

#### **Ricardo Engineering Sets Up Battery Center in Michigan**

The U.K.'s Ricardo, an automotive engineering, design, and consulting group, announced that it set up a Battery Systems Development Center at its branch in Detroit. The company said it plans to offer turnkey engineering and development of complete high-voltage battery-pack systems for hybrid, plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles. Projected to grow to a staff of 32, the company said the center would focus on engineering complete lithium-ion and nickel-metal-hydride battery-pack systems. Ricardo said the center's first chamber is scheduled to be commissioned by the middle of this summer. Ricardo is a leading provider of technology, product innovation, engineering solutions and strategic consulting to the world's automotive, transport and energy industries.

Ricardo UK, Shoreham Technical Centre, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex BN43 5FG, Tel: 01273 455611 Fax: 01273 464124, Website: [www.ricardo.com](http://www.ricardo.com)

Ricardo Inc. Detroit Technical Center, 40000 Ricardo Drive, Van Buren Township, MI 48111-1641, Tel: 001- 734 397 6666 Fax: 001- 734 397 6677, Dean Harlow, President

## **4. TRADE SHOWS**

### **UK**

#### **April 13-14, 2008 - Natural Products Europe - Olympia London**

Website: <http://www.naturalproducts.co.uk>

Natural and Organic Products Europe is the largest trade event of its type in the UK.

Contact: Tatiana Russo, Commercial Specialist, Tel: 020 7894 0419, Email: [Tatiana.Russo@mail.doc.gov](mailto:Tatiana.Russo@mail.doc.gov)

#### **April 14-16, 2008 - London Book Fair - Earls Court Exhibition Centre**

Website: <http://www.londonbookfair.co.uk>

The London Book fair is the global publishing community's leading spring forum for booksellers, publishers, librarians and book production services worldwide.

Contact; Stewart Gough, Commercial Specialist, Tel: 020 7894 0419, Email: [Stewart.Gough@mail.doc.gov](mailto:Stewart.Gough@mail.doc.gov)

#### **April 21-25, 2008 – MACH - NEC Birmingham**

Website: <http://www.mach2008.com>

MACH is the UK's premier manufacturing technologies event, encompassing metalcutting and metalforming machine tools along with all ancillary and related products and services.

Contact; Stewart Gough, Commercial Specialist, Tel: 020 7894 0419, Email: [Stewart.Gough@mail.doc.gov](mailto:Stewart.Gough@mail.doc.gov)

**April 29 - May 1, 2008 - Naidex 2008 - NEC Birmingham**

Website: <http://www.naidex.co.uk>

Naidex is the UK's number one event for the national homecare and disability market.

Contact: Tatiana Russo, Commercial Specialist, Tel: 020 7894 0419, Email: [Tatiana.Russo@mail.doc.gov](mailto:Tatiana.Russo@mail.doc.gov)

**May 20-22, 2008 - Sustainability Live 2008 -Birmingham NEC**

Website: <http://www.sustainabilitylive.com/slive08/common>

Sustainabilitylive! brings together the successful ET&ES, ICU, NEMEX and IWEX exhibitions. Focusing on the environmental, land remediation, energy and water sectors respectively.

Contact: Cheryl Withers, Commercial Assistant, Tel: 020 7894 0419 Email: [Cheryl.Withers@mail.doc.gov](mailto:Cheryl.Withers@mail.doc.gov)

**May 21-22, 2008 - "All-Energy" Renewable Energy Conference & Exhibition 2008 - Aberdeen AEEC**

Website: [www.all-energy.co.uk](http://www.all-energy.co.uk)

The All-Energy exhibition and conference is the UK's largest event devoted to renewable energy. It is highly relevant to companies actively involved in all areas of the renewable energy industry - wind (onshore and offshore), wave, tidal, hydro, hydrogen and fuel cells, solar and biofuels.

Contact: Richard Stanbridge, Senior Commercial Specialist, Tel: 020 7894 0419 Email: [Richard.Stanbridge@mail.doc.gov](mailto:Richard.Stanbridge@mail.doc.gov)

**May 22-24, 2008 - The May Series - NEC Birmingham**

Website: <http://www.themayseries.co.uk/>

The May Series 2007 represents the UK's leading protection and management exhibitions, featuring well over 1,000 exhibitors, cover Security, Fire, Facilities, Safety & Health and Policing and benefit greatly from being closely aligned to each other.

Contact: Lisa Cogan, Commercial Assistant, Tel: 020 7894 0419 Email: [Lisa.Cogan@mail.doc.gov](mailto:Lisa.Cogan@mail.doc.gov)

**US**

**April 1-3, 2008 - CTIA Wireless 2008 - Las Vegas, NV**

Website: <http://www.ctiawireless.org>

CTIA Wireless is the number one ranked wireless show in North America and represents the fastest growing, most dynamic segments of the telecommunications industry: wireless communications, internet, computing and mobile data. Every year, this show draws over 45,000 qualified worldwide attendees, representing 125 countries, including 1,100 exhibitors.

Contact: Richard Stanbridge, Senior Commercial Specialist, Tel: 020 7894 0419 , Email: [Richard.Stanbridge@mail.doc.gov](mailto:Richard.Stanbridge@mail.doc.gov)

**April 2-4, 2008 - ISC West 2008 - Las Vegas, NV**

Website: <http://www.iscwest.com>

This is the first security show of the year and is also the first security show of choice. ISC West is the best in the industry with over 15,300 security buyers and a total of over 24,300+ industry professionals.

Contact: Lisa Cogan, Commercial Assistant, Tel: 020 7894 0419 Email: [Lisa.Cogan@mail.doc.gov](mailto:Lisa.Cogan@mail.doc.gov)

**April 7-13, 2008 - High Point Market-Spring - High Point, NC**

Website: <http://www.highpointmarket.org>

The High Point Market-Spring is the largest trade show serving the home furnishings marketplace.

Contact: Sara Jones, Commercial Assistant , Tel: 020 7894 0419 Email: [Sara.Jones@mail.doc.gov](mailto:Sara.Jones@mail.doc.gov)

**April 11-13, 2008 - International Franchise Expo 2008 - Washington, DC**

The IFE 2008 is the Annual International Franchise Expo where hundreds of top franchise companies will exhibit a

vast array of industries offering a broad range of investment levels.

Contact: Marcella Marcheso, Commercial Specialist, Tel: 020 7894 0419 Email: [Marcella.Marcheso@mail.doc.gov](mailto:Marcella.Marcheso@mail.doc.gov)

April 14-17, 2008 - NAB 2008 - Las Vegas, NV

Website: <http://www.nabshow.com>

NAB is the world's leading conference and exhibition for the electronic media and communications industries.

Contact: Stewart Gough, Commercial Specialist, Tel: 020 7894 0419 Email: [Stewart.Gough@mail.doc.gov](mailto:Stewart.Gough@mail.doc.gov)

May 5-7, 2008 - Waste Expo 2008 - Chicago, IL

Website: <http://wasteexpo.com>

WasteExpo is the largest tradeshow in North America, servicing the \$43 billion solid waste, recycling, and medical waste markets. Industry sectors and exhibits at the show focus on solid waste, recycling, medical waste, and landfill products and services.

Contact: Cheryl Withers, Commercial Assistant, Tel: 020 7894 0419 Email: [Cheryl.Withers@mail.doc.gov](mailto:Cheryl.Withers@mail.doc.gov)

May 17-20, 2008 - National Restaurant Show (NRA) - Chicago, IL

Website: [www.dineout.org](http://www.dineout.org)

The NRA/Show is the leading trade show in the restaurant and hospitality industry.

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