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EQUITIES	Close	Change	% +/-	P/E '05	YTD
ISEQ	6305 ↓	-29	-0.46%	11.0	1.72%
FTSE 100	5004 ↓	-22	-0.43%	13.5	3.94%
DAX 30	4557 ↓	-9	-0.19%	15.0	7.08%
DOW	10477 ↓	-6	-0.06%	19.5	-2.84%
NASDAQ	2060 ↓	-7	-0.34%	15.6	-1.38%
S&P	1195 ↓	-3	-0.22%	21.0	-1.43%

CURRENCIES	Euro	Dollar	Stg	Yen
Euro	1.0000	1.2212	0.6692	130.9000
Dollar	1.2212	1.0000	1.8241	107.1500
Sterling	0.6692	1.8241	1.0000	195.1400
Yen	130.9000	107.1500	195.1400	1.0000

This Week's Research
Fyffes
RBS

Today's Research
INWS

Today's Recommendations

Breaking News

Jurys Doyle rejects latest Precinct approach

Jurys Doyle has said it rejected the latest unsolicited approach from Precinct Investments Ltd at a proposed raised price of 16.25 per ordinary share as announced last week. It has rejected the approach because, in the opinion of the board, it remains preliminary in nature, fails to reflect fully the value of Jurys Doyle and its prospects, and the approach is subject to a number of pre conditions which the board believes are not capable of being satisfied, it added. Precinct Investments had its initial offer approach at 15.25 pence per share rejected by Jurys Doyle on May 16.

Dragon Oil says talks on possible takeover terminated

Dragon Oil said on Wednesday it was no longer in talks over a possible partial offer for the company. Dragon did not name the party behind the approach but sources familiar with the matter identified LUKOIL as the potential bidder. Lukoil blamed opposition from Turkmenistan, where Dragon's operations are centred, but industry sources added that a deal had been hampered by the failure of Russia's largest oil firm to understand Dragon's complex ownership structure.

Greenspan speech today at 1500 GMT

Markets will be focusing on comments from Alan Greenspan today. The Fed chairman is scheduled to testify about the outlook for the economy before the Joint Economic Committee, a congressional panel of U.S. senators and representatives at 1500 GMT. Greenspan's views on the US economy will be central for interest rate expectations and may well have strong implications for the dollar.

INWS (€2.60) AGM trading statement Stuart Draper

- AGM statement : At its AGM, Independent News & Media has stated that strong revenue conditions have continued into Q2 and that the group remains on course for a meaningful improvement in underlying profit for 2005. The current consensus forecast is that earnings per share of 16.1c will be reported for 2005, representing year on year growth of 14%.
- iTouch sale : It was also announced that the group's sale of its 37.4% stake in iTouch to Japanese mobile phone content provider, For-side.com Co, for c.€100m in cash, has been declared wholly unconditional. The offer of 44p per share was a 26.6% premium, with the proceeds being used for general corporate purposes and to enhance the group's publishing brands.
- Advertising revenue : INWS' 2004 growth of 12% was driven by c.10% circulation growth, helped by the launch of "tabsheet" editions in the UK and Ireland, as well as over 10% growth in advertising revenue. The results showed that circulation gains are a positive lead indicator for advertising revenue.
- London Independent : However, despite the major circulation gains made by the London Independent, its profitability only improved modestly. Also, with the consensus forecast already expecting further 14% eps growth in 2005 to 16.1c, there may be limited scope now for further positive earnings surprises.
- FX effect : The strengthening of the FX rates for the Australian and New Zealand dollars, and the South African Rand, versus the Euro, over the course of 2004, also helped the 2004 results, but such a translation boost from these commodity currencies is unlikely to be repeated in 2005.
- Indian acquisition : In December 2004, INWS announced the €25.5m acquisition of a 26% stake in Indian newspaper publisher, Jagran Prakashan Ltd., which publishes the Hindi-language daily, Dinik Jagran, India's largest selling daily newspaper with 16.4m readers daily. The deal follows recent changes to India's foreign ownership legislation in the media sector, which now enables foreign companies to acquire up to 26% of Indian publications. The acquisition will be financed from Independent's existing cash balances, but is only likely to be modestly earnings enhancing in 2005.
- Fairly valued : With the shares now trading at 16.1x consensus 2005 eps of 16.1c, we re-iterate our current NEUTRAL recommendation on the expectation that the group's earnings growth rate will start to slow in 2006 : **NEUTRAL**.

Business Press

- Trio backs Smart's €300m bid for Meteor (II)
- Elan completes debt buyback (IT)
- BP sees \$40 oil price staying (FT)
- BHP Biliton's China sales to exceed \$3bn (FT)

Investment Press— Lex

- Wm Morrison: Profit warnings used to come in threes. Wm Morrison has just issued its fifth in a year. Morrison's statement that "there remains every indication" of a recovery looks pretty ridiculous under the circumstances.



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