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EQUITIES	Close	Change	% +/-	P/E '06	YTD
ISEQ	7596 ↑	78	1.03%	11.0	3.15%
FTSE 100	5809 ↑	84	1.46%	13.5	3.38%
DAX 30	5744 ↑	77	1.36%	15.0	6.20%
DOW	10883 ↑	25	0.23%	19.5	0.93%
NASDAQ	2256 ↓	-11	-0.49%	15.6	2.29%
S&P	1264 ↓	-2	-0.15%	21.0	1.51%

CURRENCIES	Euro	Dollar	Stg	Yen
Euro	1.0000	1.1974	0.6860	140.8400
Dollar	1.1974	1.0000	1.7446	117.6000
Sterling	0.6860	1.7446	1.0000	205.1700
Yen	140.8400	117.6000	205.1700	1.0000
Oil (Nymex)	62.6200			

This Week's Research
Ryanair
GSK
AIB

Today's Research
Kingspan

Today's Recommendation

Breaking News

Greencore to end sugar processing

Greencore announced yesterday that it will cease its production of sugar, possibly within the next year, because of EU competition rules. "A consequence of the reformed EU sugar regime agreed last November is that neither sugar growing nor processing have a long-term future in Ireland," said chairman Ned Sullivan at its AGM. Sullivan said the company expected to decide by March whether to close its remaining sugar beet-processing plant in southwest Ireland.

CRH rejects Uniland allegations

CRH has rejected the allegations by Spanish cement group Uniland that its purchase of a 26.3 percent shareholding in Uniland was 'unlawful and fraudulent'. On Thursday Uniland said it was starting legal action against CRH in an effort to overturn the share purchase. CRH bought the stake six weeks ago for €300m. CRH bought the shares after some Uniland family members sold their shares to a series of Spanish holding companies who were then bought out by CRH. Uniland said this indirect purchase was carried out 'fraudulently' and contravened the pre-emption rights of Uniland's other shareholders who they believe should have been given the opportunity to buy the shares first. The remaining 74 percent of Uniland's shareholders have now come to a binding agreement not to sell any further shares to CRH. However, CRH and its Spanish legal advisors said they were satisfied that the group had 'full and legal title' to the 26.3 percent stake.

Ryanair launches 15th European base

Ryanair has launched a new operating base at Nottingham East Midlands Airport (NEMA). Ryanair has decided two planes will be operated from the airport permanently. They will service ten new routes in France, Poland and Germany and Northern Ireland with the airline claiming all its flights from NEMA will be handling a total of 1.2 million passengers.

Kingspan(€11.77) Upgrading target from €11 to €13 Stuart Draper

- Results preview : On Monday 3 weeks, 6th March, Kingspan will announce its results for the year ended 31/12/05. We are forecasting profit before tax and earnings per share of €134.2m and 64.2c respectively, year on year increases of 53% and 37%.
- Insulation growth : Such strong growth will be driven by the group's insulated panels business, its insulated boards business and its structural business, which includes Century Homes. The increasing importance of energy conservation because of high energy prices is driving strong sales growth at the insulated panels business. The increasingly tight regulatory environment is driving strong sales growth at the insulation boards business, and the inclusion of Century Homes, acquired in April 2005, is helping to drive very strong growth at the structural business.
- Structural growth : Results from Kingspan's UK structural peers, such as Severfield-Rowen, continue to show that the trading environment for the structural building components' business remains buoyant. In addition to such buoyant underlying trading conditions, Kingspan also has last year's Century Homes acquisition to augment this business' growth rate.
- Margin expansion : In addition to strong sales growth, Kingspan is also achieving some margin expansion currently, an increasingly rare combination in the building materials' sector. Its H1 2005 results showed higher input costs being successfully passed on, and manufacturing efficiencies helping to increase the group's H1 2005 gross margin to 30.3%, from 29.5% for full year 2004. Kingpan's H1 2005 EBITA margin also increased to 11.5% from 9.9% for H1 2004.
- Market positions : Last October, Wolseley demonstrated the strong growth potential of the insulation products business by paying £140m, or 14x EBITA, for UK insulation products' distributor, Encon. Kingspan has already established leading positions in several European insulation markets.
- Target upgrade : As a result, our view is that further strong group earnings growth of at least 16% can be achieved this year and next. Such particularly strong growth justifies a premium rating and so our new 12 month price target of €13 (10% further upside) is based on 15x 2007 eps of 86.4c. Kingspan's share price has risen by 21% since our last BUY note of 26/10/05 : **BUY**.

Business Press

- Inflation hits 3% on back of utility and energy prices (IT)
- NIB loses €14m after link-up with Danske (II)
- Amarin losses €19m as R&D costs rise (II)
- Elan sells EU Prialt rights for \$100m (II)

Investment Press

- Tesco: Even by his standards Sir Terry Leahy, Tesco's chief executive, has been cautious about the US market. So investors were surprised to learn that the UK retailer plans a chain of convenience stores on the West Coast.



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