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EQUITIES	Close	Change	% +/-	P/E '05	YTD
ISEQ	6709	↓ -13	-0.19%	11.0	8.24%
FTSE 100	5384	↑ 36	0.68%	13.5	11.83%
DAX 30	4906	↓ -5	-0.11%	15.0	15.27%
DOW	10559	↑ 14	0.13%	19.5	-2.08%
NASDAQ	2146	↓ -3	-0.15%	15.6	2.74%
S&P	1228	↑ 1	0.05%	21.0	1.30%

CURRENCIES	Euro	Dollar	Stg	Yen
Euro	1.0000	1.2292	0.6785	135.8800
Dollar	1.2292	1.0000	1.8115	110.5200
Sterling	0.6785	1.8115	1.0000	200.2200
Yen	135.8800	110.5200	200.2200	1.0000
Oil (Nymex)	64.4900			

This Week's Research
Grafton Group INWS
DCC
Tullow Oil

Today's Research
Axeon Holdings

Breaking News

Bol Life new business sales up 13.1%

Bank of Ireland Life has announced new business sales of €158.1m for the six months to June 30, 2005, up 13.1% on the same period last year. Single-premium investments grew strongly, up 20% to €396m, signalling an increase in investor confidence towards unit-linked products and a gradual shift from property investment. Managing director Brian Forrester said "Growing investor confidence, stemming from the recovery in the economy and stronger performance from stock markets, has helped to make unit-linked products more attractive".

Eircom shareholders approve rights issue

Eircom shareholders yesterday approved the takeover of Meteor Mobile and the rights issue to fund the acquisition. Under the terms of the rights issue, which it is hoped will raise €423m, approximately 313 million new eircom ordinary shares will be offered to all eligible shareholders listed on the eircom register of members at the close of business on 13 September 2005. Each shareholder will be offered an additional 5 new shares for every 12 existing ordinary shares at the price of €1.35 per new share. The latest time and date for acceptance and payment in full under the rights issue is expected to be 7 October.

Waterford Wedgwood to de-list from NASDAQ

Waterford Wedgwood announced yesterday that it is to de-list its shares from the NASDAQ index. The firm said it would de-list on 20 September because its share price closed below the minimum \$1 threshold for more than 30 days. But a statement said only small volumes of shares had been traded through the NASDAQ and that the American Depositary Share (ADS) mechanism accounted for less than 0.2% of the company's ownership. "The group believes the de-listing will have no measurable effect on the share's market trading given the negligible proportion of share capital represented by the NASDAQ listing," the company said. It added the move would be good for the company's cost base by trimming the "increasing cost burden of complying with US securities regulations".

Business Press

- Ballymore denies IPO likely after Smurfit appointment (IT)
- IAWS float in doubt as it pulls out of €64m SWS deal (IT)
- Minco reports €48,000 losses (IT)
- B&Q and Next suffer high street sales slump (FT)

Axeon (66p) Maiden H1 results announced Stuart Draper

- Results announced : This morning, Axeon announced results for the 6 months ended 30/06/05. Revenue and operating loss of £83,000 and £560,000 respectively, showed an improvement on the prior year comparatives of £81,000 and £838,000, and were in line with expectations at the time of the company's AIM admission in June.
- Company profile : Axeon Holdings is a semiconductor company focused on the automotive and industrial markets where its neural network based Vindax technology can be used to deliver more fuel efficient and environmentally friendly vehicles.
- Business model : The company's business model is to license its intellectual property to key chip suppliers (Integrated Device Manufacturers or IDM's) to the automotive and industrial markets in return for upfront license fees and in-production unit royalties. The company's strategy is to partner and co-operate with the 4 key IDM's and their development tools suppliers.
- Funds raised : Axeon achieved admission to AIM on 13/06/05, raising £1.3m net of expenses at a share price of 56p. With a closing cash position of £1.1m as at 30/06/05, the company has the funding in place to achieve further product development.
- Product launch : Earlier this month, Axeon announced the launch of the new Vindax daughtercard for the Freescale MPC5554 system. The new platform enables electromechanical systems to be replaced by Vindax-enabled controllers to improve regulatory and cost performance. The European Patent Office recently confirmed that Axeon's core processor patent will be granted by year end and Axeon has now filed 2 further patent applications.
- Evaluation programmes : During H1 2005, Axeon successfully completed several evaluation programmes with major automotive customers, with at least 2 of these expected to progress further during H2 2005. In April, the first programme in the Industrial segment was established with ITI and Mpower, and this project is expected to move to its next phase during H2 2005.
- Revenue growth : Group turnover can be expected to grow very significantly should Axeon successfully licence its Vindax product. While it is too early to forecast this event, the business progress made to date has been encouraging. Gross margins of up to 75% are conceivable in such a scenario at which point the potential for major valuation upside is created. Rising fuel prices and growing automotive CO2 emission concerns also provide a very supportive external environment for the acceptance of Axeon's technology. **Dolmen Securities Limited and Dolmen Stockbrokers are acting as Nominated Adviser and Broker (respectively) to the Company : Speculative BUY.**

Investment Press— Lex

- Centrica: Centrica is, ostensibly, a UK utility stock. But that label is somewhat misleading. Over the past four years, over half of its operating profits have come from upstream gas.



DOLMEN SECURITIES

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