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EQUITIES	Close	Change	% +/-	P/E '05	YTD
ISEQ	6598 ↑	1	0.01%	11.0	6.45%
FTSE 100	5231 ↓	-29	-0.55%	13.5	8.66%
DAX 30	4713 ↑	14	0.29%	15.0	10.74%
DOW	10641 ↑	12	0.11%	19.5	-1.32%
NASDAQ	2157 ↑	4	0.18%	15.6	3.24%
S&P	1228 ↑	1	0.12%	21.0	1.31%

CURRENCIES	Euro	Dollar	Stg	Yen
Euro	1.0000	1.2062	0.6885	135.2000
Dollar	1.2062	1.0000	1.7514	112.0900
Sterling	0.6885	1.7514	1.0000	196.3400
Yen	135.2000	112.0900	196.3400	1.0000
Oil (Nymex)	58.6700			

This Week's Research

Today's Research IFG Group

Breaking News

Takeover Panel extends deadline for Precinct bid for Jurys Doyle

On Friday the Takeover Panel agreed to the request from Jurys Doyle for a two-week extension to allow it time to consider the latest approach from the Precinct consortium. Precinct Investments Ltd now has until July 29 to announce an offer for the hotel group.

Wolseley trading statement

Wolseley, the world's largest supplier of plumbing equipment, said today it is on track to achieve good trading across its units and said its main North American market was likely to stay strong. Wolseley said, as expected, the rate of growth in the second half of 2005 has been slower than in the first due to the strong second half of 2004, the absence of commodity price gains in products such as copper, steel, plastics and lumber and a slowing in the UK market. The trading margin for the period is also ahead of the equivalent period in the prior year.

General Electric earnings up 24 percent

General Electric on Friday posted a 24 percent rise in quarterly profit on a return to profit growth at its energy business and steady gains at its financial units. The quarterly earnings improvement, which was in line with Wall Street estimates, came from nearly every corner of the media, financial and industrial giant's business portfolio, with all 11 operating segments posting a profit gain of more than 10 percent. However its shares were initially weaker after its third-quarter earnings forecast fell short of analyst estimates, despite an upward revision in the low-end of its full-year forecast range. GE said it has put in place initiatives to ensure earnings growth of more than 10 percent in 2005 and beyond.

IFG Group (€1.07) Mortgage growth continuing Stuart Draper

- Mortgage growth : IFG's mortgage broker, Mortgage Business Solutions, has reported a strong 39% increase in business volumes for the first half of 2005. Particularly impressive was the 66% growth in re-mortgaging business.
- Re-mortgage driver : This is because the re-mortgage market is expected to account for 40% of the overall mortgage market in 3 year time from 25% currently, as more Irish consumers remortgage to consolidate their debt at lower interest rates.
- FY results : IFG Group reported earnings per share of 10.24c for the year ended 31/12/04, largely flat on the 10.5c of 2003, with the strong growth of the International and Irish businesses being held back by some year on year profit declines at the group's UK businesses.
- UK recovery : However, helped by the appointment of a new CEO for its UK businesses, at the time of the full year results' announcement, it was indicated that this UK division, which contains pension release, actuarial and IFA units, is likely to show some recovery in 2005.
- Debt reduction : When combined with further growth at the international and Irish businesses, such as the continued volume growth of its mortgage business mentioned above, this means that strong overall group earnings growth is likely to resume this year. Over the course of 2004, IFG reduced its net debt by €20.8m, leaving year end net debt at €36.7m.
- Earnings surprise : This means that there is the potential for IFG to surprise to the upside in relation to its 2005 earnings, as the current consensus forecast is that the company will generate only 8% earnings growth this year to 11.1c. Our view is that an eps of 12c can be achieved this year, representing 17% growth on the 2004 result. When the market becomes comfortable that such earnings growth will resume in 2005, the shares should achieve another re-rating.
- Further upside : As a result of the prospect of such growth resuming in 2005, some months ago we upgraded our 12 month share price target for IFG from €1 to €1.20 (12% further upside), which is based on 10x 2005 earnings per share of 12c: **BUY.**

Business Press

- Ryanair 'the most punctual airline' (II)
- Abbey prospects look to worsen (IE)
- Telecoms firm set for AIM launch (IE)
- Walking ad firm raises €7.3m from investors (IE)

Investment Press— Lex

- Global industrial cycle: An upward blip in a downward trend is an optimist's definition of a trough. Even a pessimist, however, would have to accept that recent forward-looking economic indicators paint a rosier picture of global industrial production than many had feared.



DOLMEN SECURITIES

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