



May 26, 2005

Contact Details:

Email : research@dbb.ie
info@dbb.ie

Tel : +353 1 633 3800
Fax : +353 1 677 4708

EQUITIES	Close	Change	% +/-	P/E '05	YTD
ISEQ	6208 ↓	-6	-0.10%	11.0	0.15%
FTSE 100	4972 ↓	-11	-0.22%	13.5	3.27%
DAX 30	4390 ↓	-7	-0.16%	15.0	3.14%
DOW	10458 ↓	-46	-0.44%	19.5	-3.02%
NASDAQ	2050 ↓	-12	-0.56%	15.6	-1.86%
S&P	1190 ↓	-4	-0.34%	21.0	-1.81%

CURRENCIES	Euro	Dollar	Stg	Yen
Euro	1.0000	1.2554	0.6882	135.6000
Dollar	1.2554	1.0000	1.8236	108.0100
Sterling	0.6882	1.8236	1.0000	196.9400
Yen	135.6000	108.0100	196.9400	1.0000

This Week's Research
Greencore
British Land

Today's Research
ThirdForce

Today's Recommendations

Breaking News

Barclays warns of rising bad debts

Barclays has said today that profit growth in the first quarter was good but warned of 2005 bad debts rising ahead of previous guidance. "Barclays has delivered good profit growth in the first quarter of 2005," Chief Executive John Varley said in a statement. "Based on current trends, Barclays now expects impairment losses for 2005 to be somewhat higher than the last published risk tendency," Britain's third-biggest bank added. Barclays posted 2004 pretax profit up 20 percent to £4.6bn in February but the results were helped by lower-than-expected bad debt provisions. The bank forecast provisions of about 1.4bn for this year in February, up from 1.1bn in 2004.

S&P raises its rating on AIB

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services said on Wednesday it raised its long-term ratings on AIB to 'A+' from 'A'. At the same time, S&P affirmed its 'A-1' short-term ratings on the bank. The outlook is stable. "Although AIB still has work to do to enhance risk and compliance across the group, we expect to see improved earnings quality and risk focus as a result of ongoing actions," said an analyst at S&P.

BOI announces expansion of Burdale Financial

Bank of Ireland yesterday announced that, following the successful acquisition of Burdale Financial Limited in December 2004, it is opening 3 new regional Burdale offices in the UK. The new offices will be located in Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham and will be in operation from June. Commenting on the announcement, Richie Boucher, Chief Executive, Bank of Ireland Corporate Banking said: "Our strategy is to continue to expand Burdale as a leading comprehensive asset based lender, focusing on businesses requiring financing of £5m+. This is the first stage of an aggressive and comprehensive growth strategy in terms of both geographical coverage in the UK and product development".

ThirdForce (€0.27) AGM trading statement Stuart Draper

- AGM statement : ThirdForce has announced that it is in discussions to acquire a private UK e-learning provider. The business in question has a suite of complementary products in markets not currently served by ThirdForce. An offer, funded from internal resources, has been made subject to due diligence, and a further announcement will be made in due course.
- Trading update : The group has also stated that largely as a result of a shift in training patterns within the UK government funded sector, sales in some sectors of the UK market in recent months have been lower than expected. When combined with the increased development expenditure being incurred this year in the formation of two new business divisions, this means that ThirdForce's 2005 results will be below previous market expectations.
- Temporary shift : However, our view is that the recent shift in training patterns within the UK government funded sector is temporary in nature and that a recovery in such sales is likely to commence in the latter part of 2005. The group is looking to its partnership with Harcourt Education International in the UK schools market to deliver sales growth in H2 2005.
- Sales growth : As a result, we are still forecasting 2005 sales growth of 10% to €13.2m, which even allowing for this year's increased development expenditure, should translate into earnings per share before goodwill of 0.81 cents.
- Future potential : However, it is in 2006 that we are expecting an acceleration in earnings growth, based on the group's new business divisions and increased penetration into UK schools. The current price earnings ratio of 19.4 times 2006 earnings per share before goodwill of 1.39 cents is not demanding given the group's growth potential : **BUY**.

Business Press

- GUS starts break up with ale of Burberry (FT)
- MUFCA board set to accept (FT)
- Sugar revamp leaves bad taste at Greencore (II)
- Anglo Irish Bank to leave car leasing business (IT)
- Reports available to DCC chief 'were not insider information' (IT)

Investment Press— Lex

- Dollar: Is the dollar's decline over? So far this year, The Federal Reserve's nominal broad trade-weighted dollar index has increased by 3 per cent. The headline advance, however, masks a shift in the dollar's relative performance against major and emerging market currencies.



DOLMEN SECURITIES

DOLMEN SECURITIES → Website : www.dolmensecurities.com

Dolmen House, 4 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, Ireland.
45 South Mall, Cork, Ireland.

• Tel : +353 1 633 3800
• Tel : +353 21 422 2122

• Fax : +353 1 677 7044
• Fax : +353 21 422 2123

• Email : info@dbb.ie
• Email : cork@dbb.ie

Disclaimer: The information in this document has been obtained from sources, which we believe to be reliable. We cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness. It does not constitute a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any investment. Any person acting on the information contained in this document does so at their own risk. Recommendations in this document may not be suitable for all investors. Individual circumstances should be considered before a decision to invest is taken. Investors should note the following: Past experience is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments may fall or rise against investors' interests. Income levels from investments may fluctuate. Changes in exchange rates may have an adverse effect on the value of, or income from, investments denominated in foreign currencies.

Dolmen Stockbrokers is a Member of the Irish Stock Exchange, the London Stock Exchange, and is authorised by the IFSRA. Dolmen Stockbrokers is regulated by the IFSRA as a Mortgage Intermediary.