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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	6782 ↑	4	0.06%	11.0	9.42%
FTSE 100	5264 ↑	7	0.14%	13.5	9.34%
DAX 30	4855 ↑	12	0.24%	15.0	14.08%
DOW	10637 ↑	57	0.54%	19.5	-1.35%
NASDAQ	2186 ↑	10	0.47%	15.6	4.65%
S&P	1237 ↑	6	0.46%	21.0	2.05%

CURRENCIES	Euro	Dollar	Stg	Yen
Euro	1.0000	1.2053	0.6914	135.5400
Dollar	1.2053	1.0000	1.7430	112.4100
Sterling	0.6914	1.7430	1.0000	195.3900
Yen	135.5400	112.4100	195.3900	1.0000
Oil (Nymex)	59.4400			

This Week's Research
CRH
British Land
IL&P

Today's Research
Legal & General

Breaking News

Elan reiterates FY guidance

Elan has reiterated its full-year guidance today and said it continued to invest cautiously in its suspended Tysabri drug after posting a second quarter loss that was close to what the market had expected. "We are cautiously optimistic that, with continued strong revenue growth and careful and disciplined cost management, this business, excluding Tysabri, will get to our target of break-even on an EBITDA basis by the end of 2005," the company said in a statement. The company posted a net loss for the three months to the end of June of \$0.35 per share, worse than the \$0.30 loss in the same period last year but slightly better than the consensus forecast of a \$0.37 loss.

Jurys Doyle sells Ballsbridge site for €260m

Jurys Doyle has announced that it has agreed to sell 4.84 acres of its Ballsbridge site to Padholme, a company controlled by Sean Dunne, for 260 million euros. The deal, which is subject to approval by Jurys Doyle shareholders, is expected to be completed in October with net proceeds after the deduction of costs expected to be 258 million euros, the company said in a statement. Profit on the disposal would be 158.8 million, it said. Jurys said it would continue to operate the hotels until 2007. The company also gave an update on current trading, saying business across its hotels division in the UK and the United States, and across its inns division in Ireland and the UK continued to be satisfactory. However, the trading performance of its 4-star Dublin hotel portfolio continued to be disappointing.

CNG Travel receives bid approach

CNG Travel has confirmed it has received an informal and unsolicited approach which may or may not lead to an offer for the company. CNG said the approach is very preliminary in nature and there can be no certainty that an offer will ultimately be forthcoming. The company said a further announcement will be made in due course and, in relation to this announcement, shareholders are advised to take no action in relation to their shareholdings in the company.

Business Press

- Creamery results under pressure (IT)
- BIAM mat seek job cuts in US unit (II)
- RBS eyes Chinese bank stake (FT)
- Prudential chief plays down change after results improve (FT)

Legal & General (£1.15) H1 results announced Stuart Draper

- Results announced : This morning, Legal & General announced results for the 6 months ended 30/06/05. Operating profit and operating eps on an embedded value basis of £465m and 4.98p respectively were largely in line with consensus forecasts of £462m and 5p.
- Recovering market : The sales figure on an annual premium equivalent (APE) basis of £652m was ahead of the consensus forecast of £599m, and was a year on year increase of 28%. The strong results were driven by the continued recovery of the UK savings and pension market, as well as by further market share gains by Legal & General.
- Bancassurance distribution : Legal & General has bancassurance distribution agreements with Barclays, Alliance and Leicester, Woolwich and Northern Rock, for the distribution of stakeholder pensions, as well as for the distribution of other life and pension products, which are helping it achieve this gradual increase in market share in the UK life sector.
- Well funded : The company also continues to grow strongly at the expense of smaller rivals because of its strong balance sheet. In October 2002, Legal & General raised £786m by way of a rights issue, which helped preserve its AA credit rating.
- Takeover potential : Legal & General's standalone critical mass also gives it some potential as an attractive medium term takeover target, as it would be of use in achieving entry into the UK market.
- Further upside : Given that Legal & General's return on embedded value of 12% is in line with the UK sector average, our current 12 month price target of £1.25 (9% further upside) is based on the current sector average of 1.4x embedded value per share of 89p. The shares also pay an attractive dividend yield of 4.5% for waiting for this upside to be achieved : **BUY**.

Investment Press— Lex

- France Telecom: Creating value by winning competitive auctions is tricky. France Telecom's purchase on Wednesday of 80 per cent of Amena, Spain's third biggest mobile operator, shows why.



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