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EQUITIES	Close	Change	% +/-	P/E '05	YTD
ISEQ	6784 ↑	62	0.92%	11.0	9.45%
FTSE 100	5495 ↑	48	0.87%	13.5	14.14%
DAX 30	5049 ↑	83	1.67%	15.0	18.63%
DOW	10473 ↑	17	0.16%	19.5	-2.87%
NASDAQ	2115 ↓	-1	-0.05%	15.6	1.26%
S&P	1217 ↑	1	0.10%	21.0	0.40%

CURRENCIES	Euro	Dollar	Stg	Yen
Euro	1.0000	1.2070	0.6825	136.2300
Dollar	1.2070	1.0000	1.7683	112.8700
Sterling	0.6825	1.7683	1.0000	199.5800
Yen	136.2300	112.8700	199.5800	1.0000
Oil (Nymex)	66.4100			

This Week's Research
IAWS
Bank of Ireland
McInerney

Today's Research
IFG Group

Breaking News

Providence H1 results

Providence has reported interim results for the six months ended 30 June 2005. Turnover was up 23% at €629,000, compared to €510,000 for the corresponding period last year. Net profit was €41,000 versus €12,000 in 2004. Commenting on today's results, Mr. Tony O'Reilly Jr., Chief Executive of Providence said: "Providence is currently directly involved in the drilling of 3 wells plus also an indirect interest in the appraisal drilling of the Dragon Field. The drilling on AJE in Nigeria offers Providence shareholders a unique exposure to a significant world class hydrocarbon play, whilst the recent acquisition of an interest in West Lennox accords with our strategy of increasing our daily oil production. Importantly, the current environment means that many of Providence's projects have now been upgraded to potential development status and these projects, together with our currently active drilling operations, means that we look forward to the second half of the year with confidence".

Kingspan Chairman sells 5m shares

Kingspan said yesterday that chairman Eugene Murtagh has disposed of 5 million ordinary shares in the company and now holds 35 million shares, representing 20.81 percent. Murtagh informed the company that he has no present intention to further reduce his shareholding.

South Wharf narrows H1 losses

South Wharf narrowed its pretax loss in the six months to end June to €630,000 from €936,000 the year before, on turnover of €228,000, down from €463,000. Chairman Paul Coulson said the company is continuing to pursue the purchase of a property it leases at Ringsend, despite an application to the courts by the landlord Dublin Port to repossess the land. 'The directors of South Wharf continue to believe that the development of the group's property in Ringsend in accordance with the Poolbeg Framework Plan of Dublin City Council is in the best interest of shareholders and the wider community,' said Coulson.

Business Press

- House prices pick up over summer—report (IT)
- Glencar's loss widens in first half (IT)
- Small loss for Petrel (II)
- Chadwick joins firm of British building firm (IT)

IFG Group (€1.35)

H1 results announced

Stuart Draper

- Results announced : IFG Group has announced results for the 6 months ended 30/06/05. Profit before tax and earnings per share of €5.2m and 6.3c respectively were largely in line with our forecasts of €5.3m and 6.5c, and were year on year increases of 2% and 4%. The interim dividend per share was increased by a larger than expected 25% to 0.95c.
- Growth resuming : The 4% H1 eps growth was driven by further strong performances by the group's 3 core businesses, International Trustee, UK Actuarial and Irish Mortgages, not being wiped out by losses at the group's other UK operations, as was the case last year. Helped by the appointment of a new CEO in September 2004, the performance of the UK division appears to have now stabilised.
- Mortgages buoyant : IFG's Irish Mortgage business delivered a strong 23% increase in profits to €1.9m. With the re-mortgage market expected to account for 40% of the mortgage market in 3 years time from 25% currently, as more Irish consumers re-mortgage to consolidate their debt at lower interest rates, the growth prospects for this business remain strong. The increasing demand for title insurance should be another growth driver.
- International strong : Increasing regulation looks set to ensure that IFG's International business remains the largest contributor to profits, with its H1 operating profit increasing by 7% to €3m, representing 47% of group continuing operating profit.
- Debt reduction : Even though the company's net debt position increased to €38.5m at 30/06/05 because of seasonal factors, from €36.7m at year end, net debt is still expected to be reduced to c.€24m by year end 2005. Such progress provides a further engine of earnings growth from the associated lower interest charge, as well as reducing the company's risk profile.
- Potential catalysts : With IFG's UK and Irish Financial Services businesses continuing to underperform and slow the overall rate of group earnings growth, corporate activity to further rationalise these divisions over the next 12 months could act as positive catalysts for the share price.
- Further upside : As a result of the prospect of group earnings growth resuming in 2005, we recently upgraded our price target for IFG to €1.50 (11% further upside), which is based on 11x 2006 core eps of 14c. The group remains on course to achieve full year 2005 eps of 12.5c. IFG's share price has risen by 26% since our BUY note of 18/07/05 : **BUY**.

Investment Press—Lex

- British Energy: What a difference a year makes. Last September, British Energy was getting ready to delist following financial meltdown. Now, it is back in the black, its stock is nudging the FTSE 100, and Tony Blair is hinting at building more nuclear power stations.



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