

Business Today

WEDNESDAY 21 May 2008 - ISSUE NO. 536



Interview:
Ian Ellis

Page 10

**UK government cuts budget for
Malta commercial office**

Page 3

**Suncrest to close doors
during winter months**

Page 5

www.businesstoday.com.mt

World Business Highlights

U.S. Stocks Drop; Dow Average Falls Most in Five Weeks on Inflation, Oil U.S. stocks fell, dragging down the Standard & Poor's 500 Index from a four-month high, as analysts forecast more credit losses and faster inflation and record oil prices threatened to reduce profitability.

Producer Prices in U.S. Excluding Food, Energy Increase More Than Forecast Prices paid to U.S. producers, excluding food and fuel, rose twice as much as forecast in April, tightening the profit squeeze as a slowing economy makes it tough for companies to pass on higher costs to consumers.

Oil Rises Above \$129 to a Record After Pickens Says Prices May Reach \$150 Crude oil rose above \$129 a barrel in New York for the first time after billionaire hedge-fund manager Boone Pickens said oil will reach \$150 a barrel this year because supply isn't keeping up with demand.

Dollar Falls on Oil's Surge, Speculation That European Rates Won't Be Cut The dollar fell the most in a month against the euro as the price of oil rose above \$129 for the first time and speculation increased that the European Central Bank will keep interest rates high.

Intuit Profit Rises 21% on Increased Demand for TurboTax Filing Software Intuit Inc., the world's largest maker of tax-preparation software, reported a 21 percent gain in third-quarter profit and boosted its annual forecast on demand for TurboTax software. The shares rose 6.2 percent.

FTSE 100



Inside

Fantasy Football

Mark Lamb explains how for many investors emotional attachment can be a huge driving force when making financial decisions

Page 18

Practical Credit Management

Speech delivered by PS Jason Azzopardi on the occasion of the Malta Association of Credit Management Annual Conference last Thursday

Page 9

EU Commission:

Updated rules on guarantees and the provision of simplified possibilities for SMEs

Page 6

RS2 lays plans for 40 per cent of IPO funds

Charlot Zahra

Business Today has learnt that out of €10 million in shares that Maltese IT company RS2 will be issuing on the Malta Stock Exchange (MSE) as part of its Initial Public Offering (IPO), €4 million or 40 per cent will be used towards investment projects listed by the company in the IPO which was published yesterday.

Out of these €4 million, €2.2 million will be used towards the company's structured office expansion in those areas where its clients are concentrated.

At first the company will open an office in Jordan to serve Middle-East clients in Jordan itself, in Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, Dubai and Palestine. In the medium-term an office in Scandinavia will be opened to serve clients in Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland. The company also plans to open an office in the US.

The European offices, with Malta as a backbone, will be used as the company's hub in terms of development, project management and disaster recovery. ▶ page 6



LGA introduces tougher regulations for new e-gaming licenses

Charlot Zahra

The Lotteries and Gaming Authority (LGA), which regulates the gaming sector in Malta, has tightened the belt on the release of new online gaming licenses in a bid to increase professionalism in the sector.

Philippe Warzee, the chief inspector of the LGA, was quoted by the Italian media as saying: "This is not a question of closing down licenses, but to discourage new ones and this for a very simple reason: like in the case of land-based casinos, even online gaming must be managed only by professional and honest people."

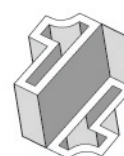
"Both requisites are fundamental to protect the player as a consumer, who has to have the certainty that he or she is gaming in a site which is real and that will not vanish the day after," Warzee said.

"Therefore we will pay maximum attention and surveillance on the issue of new licenses. Even nowadays, we ask the licensees to respect clear rules: The company's legal representative must be resident in Malta, and there must always be a contact person who can respond to every complaint lodged.

"Moreover, the servers on which the sites are located should be hosted in Malta. Our inspectors monitor on a ▶ page 5

Markets

Security	Closing Prices in Euro Tue 13-May-08	Closing Prices in MTL Tue 13-May-08	% Change from previous wk
Bank of Valletta p.l.c.	5.050	2.168	0.000%
HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c.	4.150	1.782	0.000%
Lombard Bank Malta p.l.c.	3.235	1.389	0.000%
Middlesea Insurance p.l.c.	3.410	1.464	0.000%
Simonds Farsons Cisk p.l.c.	2.730	1.172	0.000%
GO p.l.c.	2.900	1.245	0.000%
International Hotel Investments p.l.c.	1.070	0.459	0.000%
Plaza Centres p.l.c.	1.720	0.738	0.000%
Malta International Airport p.l.c.	3.350	1.438	0.000%
GlobalCapital p.l.c.	3.000	1.288	0.000%
Datatrak Holdings p.l.c.	0.291	0.125	0.000%
San Tumas Shareholdings p.l.c.	2.562	1.100	0.000%
Medserv p.l.c.	4.044	1.736	0.000%
Grand Harbour Marina p.l.c.	2.050	0.880	0.000%
Crimsonwing p.l.c.	0.540	0.232	0.000%
MaltaPost p.l.c.	0.800	0.343	0.000%



FIMBANK



5.25 % 12 month Euro Term Deposit
LIMITED AVAILABILITY

We also pay premium rates for US Dollar and GBP. Money Market Linked Deposits also available. Minimum Deposit - Euro 50,000 or equivalent

FIMBank p.l.c. is a licensed credit institution in Malta. This offer is regulated in terms of the Banking Act. Interest rates and conditions for Money Market Linked Deposits apply. Terms and Conditions for this offer are available upon request. Rates are correct at the time of going to press. FIMBank p.l.c. reserves the right to change such rate and/or conditions without further notice to the public. The value of your deposit and interest payable may be subject to Currency Exchange Rate fluctuations, depending on the depositor's Reference Currency.

FIMBank p.l.c.
7th Floor, The Plaza Commercial Centre
Bisazza Street, Sliema SLM 1640, Malta

www.fimbank.com
info@fimbank.com
T :: 2132 2100

FREEPHONE :: 800 73110