

# Business Today



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**Joe Grech**

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## World Business Highlights

**Intel Profit Gains 12% on Sales of Lower-Cost Computer Chips; Shares Rise** Intel Corp., the world's biggest chipmaker, reported a 12 percent rise in third-quarter profit after orders for cheaper processors bolstered sales. Its forecast eased concern that the market is slumping, sending the shares up.

**U.S. Stocks Drop on Concern About Corporate Profits; Microsoft, Pepsi Fall** U.S. stocks fell a day after the market's biggest rally since the 1930s as a worsening outlook for earnings forced investors to look beyond a \$2 trillion global push to rescue banks.

**Paulson Tells Banks to 'Deploy' Capital Under \$250 Billion Investment Plan** Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson urged banks getting \$250 billion of taxpayer funds to channel the money to customers quickly to halt a credit freeze that's threatening to bankrupt companies and hammer the job market.

**Taleb's 'Black Swan' Investors Post Gains of More Than 50% as Markets Dive** Investors advised by "Black Swan" author Nassim Taleb have gained 50 percent or more this year as his strategies for navigating big swings in share prices paid off amid the worst stock market in seven decades.

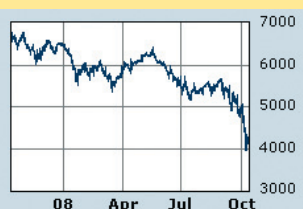
**Roubini Predicts Worst U.S. Recession in 40 Years, End to Market Recovery** Nouriel Roubini, the professor who predicted the financial crisis in 2006, said the U.S. will suffer its worst recession in 40 years, driving the stock market lower after it rallied the most in seven decades yesterday.

**U.S. 2008 Budget Deficit Widens to a Record \$455 Billion as Economy Slows** The U.S. government posted a record budget deficit for 2008 as financial market strains slowed economic growth and spending rose the most since 1990.

**Fannie, Freddie Debt Spreads Widen to Records After U.S. Bank Guarantees** Yields on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac corporate debt rose to records relative to Treasuries as the government said it would guarantee borrowing by banks, providing bond buyers with competing U.S.-backed investments.

**Bush Exceeded Power by Withholding Cheney Comments in CIA Case, Panel Says** President George W. Bush overstepped his authority by withholding an FBI interview of Vice President Dick Cheney from a congressional panel probing the leak of a CIA agent's identity, a draft bipartisan House

### FTSE 100



# Actavis not affected by Iceland's financial collapse

Charlot Zahra

The global financial crisis has brought tiny island-nation Iceland to the brink of economic collapse, with the Government taking over the country's three largest banks last week.

However one of the country's largest industries, Actavis, which has factories in 40 countries across the globe, including Malta, said it has not been impacted by the meltdown of the Icelandic economy.

A spokesperson for the company in Reykjavik told Business Today: "Only 1 per cent of Actavis' revenues are generated in Iceland. The company's financial support is outside of Iceland and the company's books are in euro."

She said that the global financial crisis "does not impact our normal course of business, and we will remain focused on providing quality products to our customers."

Actavis specialises in the development, manufacturing and sales of generic pharmaceuticals in international markets. The company is present in 40 countries around the globe, and its products are registered in more than 60 countries.

Asked specifically as to how the



meltdown of the Icelandic financial system has affected Actavis' operations and the company's financial strength, the company spokesperson said: "No, it hasn't".

She also reassured that Actavis "has not" lost money as a result of the meltdown of the Icelandic banking system.

Asked specifically as to whether

the Malta plant would be affected in any way as a result of any proposed closures or reductions of staff, the Actavis spokesperson was categorical in her **▶ page 3**

## As tourism takes a plunge, Corinthia Group looks up

David Darmanin

Faced by the new, challenging realities of the international economic climate, Corinthia Group's International Hotel Investments plc (IHI), is making an attempt in turning the situation to its favour by "stepping up" its business development activities "in pursuit of new hotel acquisition opportunities" at favourable prices.

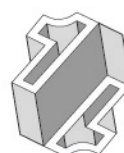
Listed on the Malta Stock

Exchange, IHI is a hotel investor and developer, with substantial cash resources and low debt to equity ratios. IHI is also fortunate to have the support of strong institutional shareholders such as LFICO of Libya and Nakheel Hotels of Dubai.

Asked for his comments, an IHI spokesperson told Business Today: "The current financial turmoil is resulting in **▶ page 3**

### Markets

Security	Closing Prices in Euro		% Change from previous wk
	Tue 7-Oct-08	Tue 14-Oct-08	
Bank of Valletta p.l.c.	3.900	3.720	-4.615%
HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c.	2.980	2.900	-2.685%
Lombard Bank p.l.c.	3.050	3.000	-1.639%
Middlesea Insurance p.l.c.	2.949	2.949	0.000%
Simonds Farsons Cisk p.l.c.	2.600	2.650	1.923%
GO p.l.c.	2.200	2.020	-8.182%
International Hotel Investments p.l.c.	1.000	0.970	-3.000%
Plaza Centres p.l.c.	1.750	1.750	0.000%
Malta International Airport p.l.c.	2.930	2.900	-1.024%
GlobalCapital p.l.c.	2.200	1.991	-9.500%
Datatrak Holdings p.l.c.	0.290	0.290	0.000%
San Tumas Shareholdings p.l.c.	3.000	3.000	0.000%
Medserv p.l.c.	3.997	3.997	0.000%
Grand Harbour Marina p.l.c.	2.200	2.199	-0.045%
Crimsonwing p.l.c.	0.500	0.498	-0.400%
MaltaPost p.l.c.	0.820	0.800	-2.439%
RS2 Software p.l.c.	0.821	0.803	-2.192%



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