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# BUSINESS

## Stock Market

FISE INDEX AT NOON  
 5,804.70 UP 26.70

AEROSPACE & DEFENCE		NONLIFE INSURANCE	
BAE Systems	347 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	Schroders	946 +17
Rolls Royce	+9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	Schroders NV	890 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +9
Group	416 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		
Smiths Grp	888 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +15 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	GENERAL INDUSTRIALS	
VT Group	476 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +17 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	Cooksn Grp	526 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
		REXAM	505 +1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
		Tomkins	271 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
AIM		GENERAL RETAILERS	
Brady Plc	27 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Ashley L	24 -3 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
C.I. Traders	76 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> -5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	Boots	758 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Dawson Intl	6 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	Carphone	-3
Highland Gold	-11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	Warehouse	280 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Mining	207 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	DSG International	193 +1
Inveresk	19 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> -1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	GUS	990 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +3
London Security	1150	Inchcape	453 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Sibir Energy	466 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> -4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Kingfisher	236 +3 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
		M & S	582 +3
AUTOMOBILES & PARTS		Matalan	176 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Avon Rbbr	187 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Mothercare	336 +3
G.K.N.	261 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +1 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	Next	1689 +18
		WH Smith	488 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
BANKS		HEALTH CARE EQUIPMENT & SERVICES	
Alliance & L	1032	Smith Nph	423 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +8
Anglo Irish	766 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		
Barclays	615 +9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	HOUSEHOLD GOODS	
Bradford & B	442 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +2	AGA Food	374 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
HBoS	959 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +9	Barrat Dev	943 +2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
HSBC	961 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -1	Persimmon	1260 +15
Lloyds T.S.B.	531 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	Reckitt B	£20 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Northern Rock	1038 +6	Tyrl Wdrw	322 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +3
Ryl Scotland	1720 +16	Wilson Bowden	1521 +22
Stan Chart	1296 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	Wimpey	445 +13 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
BEVERAGES		INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING	
Diageo	902 +1	Charter	744 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
SABMiller	969 +6	Enodis	215 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Scot New	514 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	FKI	100 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +1
		I.M.I.	495 +2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
CHEMICALS		Man Brnze	209 +2
BOC Grp	1601 +2	INDUSTRIAL METALS	
Croda	433 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	Corus	421 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +2 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Delta	130 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -1 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION	
Elementis 98	79 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> -5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	A.B Ports	903 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +2
I.C.I.	367 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +9	B.A.A.	933 -1 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Johnsn Mat	1296 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +15 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	BBA Grp	257 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> -1
CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS		Euro Intl	25
Balfour Beatty	345 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +6 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	Forth Ports	1772 -15
Costain	50	Simon	60 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> -1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Hanson	640 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +1 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	LIFE INSURANCE	
ELECTRICITY		Aviva	714 +2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
British Energy	693 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> -3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	Friends Prov	178 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> -1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Intl Power	284 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	Lgl & Gen	125 +3 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Scot Power	588 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> -4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	Old Mutual	157 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> -1 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
S & S Energy	1168 +5	Prudential	572 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +5 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Viridian	993 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +3 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	MEDIA	
ELECTRONIC & ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT		BSkyB	548 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +17 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Chloride	102 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Chrysalis	118 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Invensys	18 +1 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	D Mail Tst	564 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +3
Laird Grp	362 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	Emap	714 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +3
		EMI	258 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +3 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
FIXED LINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS		Indep News	160 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
BT Grp	233 +11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	ITV	97 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
C.&W.	111 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +1 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Johnston P	382 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Colt Telecom	149 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> -15 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	Pearson	705 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +7
Kingston	52 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	Reed Elsevier	520 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +2 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Thus Group	131 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Reuters Grp	365 +3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
FOOD & DRUG RETAILERS		SMG	75
Alliance	1007 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +12 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Trinity Mirror	438 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Unichem	1007 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Utd Business	586 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +13 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Morrison W	196 +1 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	UTV	359 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +4
Sainsbury	334 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	WPP	630 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Tesco	348 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	Yell Group	521 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +9
FOOD PRODUCERS		MINING	
AB Food	837 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	Anglo Am	£22 +1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Cadbury Sch	527 -2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Antofagasta	414 +1
IAWS Group	958 -4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	BHP Billiton	1047 +6
Nth Foods	82 -1 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Kazakhmys	1191 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
PGI Group	50	Lonmin	£28 -1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Tate Lyle	657 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +10 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	Rio Tinto	£27 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> -1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Unilever	1245 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +18 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Xstrata	£20 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +5 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Uniq	160 -2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS	
GAS, WATER & MULTIUTILITIES		Vodafone G	112 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
AWG	1269 +4	LOCAL SHARES	
Centrica	284 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	Alliance & Leics	1014 8
Kelda	847 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Aria Foods	48 1/2 1/4
National Grid	595 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> +1 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	Astrazeneca	3114 0
Pennon Grp	1438 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> +2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	BSS Group plc	320 -3/4
Severn	1237 +5	Enstone plc	49 1/2 -1/4
United Utils	645 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> +4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	Galliford Try	116 -3/4
		Halma plc	190 1/2 -2 3/4
		Interserve	353 4
		Jessops	107 3/4 0
		Lavendon Group	291 1/2 0
		Next	1658 37
		RPC Group	229 1 1/2
		Tomkins	267 3/4 3 3/4
		Wilson Bowden	1483 -14

## START-UPS: NEW FIRMS UP BY 18 PER CENT

# More set out to be the boss

The number of businesses being set up has risen.

by **ANDY GILGRIST**  
 BUSINESS EDITOR

A study by Barclays found 1,600 businesses were born in Leicestershire and Rutland during the first three months of the year – up 18 per cent on the same period last year.

However, the situation was patchy, with the rise primarily in Leicester – of about 500 new firms – Harborough, Oadby and Wigston and North West Leicestershire.

Start-ups stayed at the same level in Rutland and Melton and fell in Blaby, Charnwood and Hinckley and Bosworth.

The region as a whole saw the number of businesses created during the first quarter rise by 25 per cent, to 7,800.

Data collected from Barclays customers found the number of women starting up were outnumbered by men by more than three to one.

One new business is Bambino

Baby, at 282 Welford Road, Leicester.

It sells gifts for children aged up to eight.

The business was set up by Sera Preston, 34, who has three children herself. It is her first go at running a business.

The former counsellor said: "The idea behind the business is to offer unique and unusual items at a reasonable price, with the products made by other small and independent businesses.

"My suppliers are often working mums themselves, based at home.

"I got a bid fed up about it always being the big guys, so it's ethics and idealism for me."

Downsides so far include "a lack of wages – you need to put it back in at the start" and having to give up her car.

Sera advised other people considering having a go at running

a business to try it and see. She said: "If you can go into it fearlessly, it is worth a shot.

"Life is too short to be in a job you want to get out of."

Nationally, more than 110,000 start-ups took place in the first three months of the year.

However, over the same period, more than 111,000 businesses closed.

Nicki Burley, Barclays area manager for small business, said: "A strong cyclical rebound in people starting a business has occurred in the first quarter.

"Despite the high level of start-ups, the trading conditions for small business are still quite tough.

"We expect a more widespread improvement in small business trading conditions to occur later in the year and into 2007 as the current economic conditions pick up, providing improving opportunities for individuals to set up and grow their business."



PICTURE: LIONEL HEAP / 664016-1

SHARING: Roger Collings, Giles Button and David Challen from the firms staging the seminar

## Practical use of technology revealed

A TRIO of technology firms gave a free seminar to more than 40 business people.

Studio 2 Online and Aurora Technologies, both of Leicester, and RDC Communications, of Wigston, held the event at the new Marriott Hotel, at Grove Park, near junction 21 of the M1.

The delegates came from more than 30 businesses. Topics

covered included how to write a brief for a website and the uses of the communications technology Voice Over Internet Protocol. Delegates were given practical demonstrations of the technology available.

Giles Button, director of Studio 2 Online, said: "The seminar proved to be a great success and we were happy to help others

gain the knowledge they need to take their own businesses forward."

The three firms are planning to repeat the event in October.

The new Marriott Hotel has already proved a magnet for business meetings.

It has attracted hundreds of bookings since its opening at the end of May.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### House builder is seeking sites

ONE of the largest house builders in the UK and Ireland is looking for potential sites in Leicester.

McInerney Homes – the UK subsidiary of Irish international property developer McInerney Holdings – last year built more than 1,800 homes, and saw an increase in completions of almost 32 per cent.

UK group managing director Pat O'Flynn said: "McInerney Homes is a well-known name in Ireland. We intend to make sure that our new South Midlands region helps strengthen our market position during the coming years."

### Fun-day success

AN ANNUAL fun day held at the offices of Alliance and Leicester has raised more than £5,000 for charity.

Hundreds of people attended the event, now in its fifth year, to enjoy an afternoon of entertainment.

As part of the event, the bank invited local schools to enter a bookmark competition, raising £1,500 for seven schools to buy books for their libraries.

More than 30 stalls sold a variety of goods including hand-made crafts, paintings, cakes, sweets, greeting cards, plants, books and children's games.

The remaining funds will be used to support charities such as Marie Curie Cancer Care and Pilgrims Hospice.

The event has now raised around £29,000 over the past five years.

### Toone bows out

A GARAGE business closes tomorrow after 46 years of trading. Fred Toone & Sons was set up by Fred Toone, who retired from the shop floor 10 years ago at the age of 69 but continued to deal with some of the paperwork.

His youngest son, Mick, took over the running of the business. Fred said he wanted to thank all the suppliers and customers who had supported the business in Leicester Street in Leicester.

The doors shut for the final time tomorrow. Fred Toone said he had sold the property.

### Defence awards

FIRMS which create new products in the defence sector which find wider uses are invited to enter a new award scheme.

The first Defence Technology Exchange Innovation Awards will be handed out in November. There are nine awards, all with an element of seeking to find technology that has transferred from defence to civilian industries.

www.deftec.co.uk