

FTSE 100 closes at 5,000

London, 10 February 2005: FTSE Group, the company behind the famous FTSE 100, confirms that the leading blue chip index reached 5,000 points at the close of business for the first time in over two and a half years today.

The last time the index closed above 5,000 was on 31 May 2002, when it finished at 5085.1. The highest ever all time close was during the dot.com boom, when the FTSE 100 stood at 6930.2 on 30 December 1999.

The index is used as the basis for a range of investment products worldwide and as a general indicator of UK market performance.

Performance data and constituent lists for the FTSE 100 are available at:

www.ftse.com/indices_marketdata/uk_series/index_home.jsp

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For more information

Nicky Gardner/Jo Mayall, +44 207 448 1821 or Email: media@ftse.com

Notes to Editors

About FTSE Group

FTSE Group is a world-leader in the creation and management of indices. With offices in London, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Madrid, Paris, New York, San Francisco and Tokyo, FTSE Group services clients in 77 countries worldwide. It calculates and manages the FTSE Global Equity Index series, which includes world-recognised indices ranging from the FTSE All-World Index, the FTSE4Good series and the recently launched Global Small Cap Index Series, as well as domestic indices such as the prestigious FTSE 100. The company has collaborative arrangements with the AMEX, Athens, Cyprus, Euronext, Johannesburg, London, Luxembourg, and Madrid exchanges, as well as with Nikkei of Japan (Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Inc), and Xinhua Financial Network of China. FTSE recently signed an agreement with Dow Jones Indexes to develop a single classification system for global investors, named the Industry Classification benchmark (ICB).

FTSE indices are used extensively by investors world-wide for investment analysis, performance measurement, asset allocation, portfolio hedging and for creating a wide range of index tracking funds. Independent committees of senior fund managers, derivatives experts, actuaries and other experienced practitioners review all changes to the indices to ensure that they are made objectively and without bias. Real-time FTSE indices are calculated on systems managed by Reuters. Prices and FX rates used are supplied by Reuters.