

The FTSE 250 index scales new heights

London, 1 February 2005: The FTSE 250 index, the definitive measure of the UK mid cap market, closed at its highest ever level since its launch in October 1992. The market benchmark index finished at 7225.4 at the UK market close today.

The FTSE 250 index has significantly outperformed the FTSE 100 index over a two year period. From 31 January 2003 to 31 January 2005 the FTSE 250 index has increased by 78% compared to the 36% increase of the FTSE 100 index over the same period. The FTSE 250 contains the largest 250 companies in the UK outside the FTSE 100 and accounts for 14% of the FTSE All-Share's market capitalisation.

Gareth Parker, Head of Index Design, FTSE Group observes, "This is not just a trend in the UK market. We have seen the FTSE Global Mid Cap and FTSE Global Small Cap indices outperform their large cap counterparts over the last couple of years."

An end of day value for the FTSE 250 index is available at
http://www.ftse.com/indices_marketdata/uk_series/values.jsp

- ends -

For more information

Nicky Gardner +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.