

PRESS RELEASE:

**Companies House Hits Millionth Electronic Incorporation**

LONDON, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 06: Companies House announced this week it has reached its millionth electronic incorporation of a company. Quite an accomplishment as Arthur West, Channels Manager at Companies House explains, "Given that we've built up a register of just over 2 million companies since 1844, to have incorporated a million electronically in just 4 and a half years is a stunning achievement for Companies House, e-government and all the company formation agents involved.

"Success on this scale confirms Companies House as a leading player in the delivery of the governments e-services agenda. Our e-services make it easier for people to do business with us; we are clearly providing services which people need and are happy to use. The benefits are clear once they try it . . . a million companies can't be wrong!

"This achievement is an indication of our relationship with company formation agents. Companies House developed the technology behind electronic incorporation together with agents, and our success in encouraging electronic incorporation would not have been possible without them."

More than 85% of company incorporations are now received electronically and processed within 24 hours. Claire Clancy, Chief Executive and Registrar of Companies for England and Wales looks forward to more milestones, "We've worked hard to achieve efficiencies and encourage companies to switch from paper to electronic services. Currently we are registering at least 12,000 companies a week for these services. In fact, this year sometime we're looking forward to our millionth annual return lodged electronically. It's a quantum leap from where we were only a few years ago."

Barry Gardiner MP, Minister for Competitiveness, DTI says it's the way of the future, "Firstly my congratulations to Companies House, the agents and all those involved in the success of achieving a goal sought after through clever thinking, a spirit of collaboration and plain hard work. This milestone to utilise new electronic technologies to further business, is the direction that we hope industry, in all sectors, will follow in the future."

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**NOTES FOR EDITORS**

1. Companies House is an executive agency of the DTI, with responsibility for the incorporation and dissolution of companies; for the registration of information supplied by them under the Companies Act and related legislation, and for making this information available to the public.
2. Photography available upon request.

**FOR FURTHER MEDIA INFORMATION:**

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