

## WARNING TO SHAREHOLDERS – SHARE SCAMS

Over the last year many companies have become aware that their shareholders have received unsolicited phone calls or correspondence concerning investment matters. These have often been from overseas based 'brokers' who target UK shareholders offering to sell them what often turn out to be worthless or high risk shares in US or UK investments or seemingly offering to buy their shares for a significant premium over the market price. A 2006 survey by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) reported that the average amount lost by investors is around £20,000. It is not just the novice investor that has been duped in this way; many of the victims had been successfully investing for several years.

Shareholders are advised by the FSA to be wary of any unsolicited advice, offers to buy shares at a discount or at a premium or offers of free reports into the company.

If you receive any unsolicited offers for your shares or unsolicited offers of advice, you are advised to get the correct name of the person and their organisation. You may wish to check that they are properly authorised by the FSA. You can check at [www.fsa.gov.uk/register/home.do](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/register/home.do) You can then contact the firm using the contact details on the FSA register. You may also report the matter to the FSA either by calling 0845 606 1234 or visiting <http://www.fsa.gov.uk/consumer/> .

The FSA also maintains on its website a list of unauthorised overseas firms who are targeting, or have targeted, UK investors and any approach from such organisations should be reported to the FSA so that this list can be kept up to date and any other appropriate action can be considered. If you deal with an unauthorised firm, you would not be eligible to receive payment under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. The FSA can be contacted by completing an online form at [www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/doing/regulated/law/alerts/overseas.shtml](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/doing/regulated/law/alerts/overseas.shtml)

Details of any sharedealing facilities that the company endorses will be included in company mailings.

More detailed information on this or similar activity can be found on the FSA website <http://www.fsa.gov.uk/consumer/>.