

## **Quoted Companies Alliance welcomes Government announcement on AIM shares in ISAs**

The Quoted Companies Alliance, the independent membership organisation that champions the interests of small to mid-size quoted companies, welcomes the Chancellor's announcement in the Autumn Statement today that the Government will consult on the inclusion of shares traded on small and medium enterprise (SME) equity markets, such as AIM, into Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs).

The Quoted Companies Alliance, along with the London Stock Exchange, investors and other business organisations, has been carrying out a long-term campaign to allow AIM and ISDX shares in ISAs and has included this measure in its 2013 Budget proposals.

The overwhelming view of small and mid-size quoted companies and their advisers is that allowing AIM and ISDX shares into ISAs would provide the greatest positive impact on growth of the small and mid-size quoted company sector. In the QCA/BDO Small and Mid-Cap Sentiment Index in February 2012 and again in September 2012, including AIM and ISDX companies' shares into ISAs was the most popular measure amongst respondents.

Tim Ward, Chief Executive of the Quoted Companies Alliance, commented: "The Government is listening to what growing companies want with its announcement to consult on including AIM and ISDX shares into ISAs. This measure could have a significant positive impact on liquidity and the ability of small and mid-size quoted companies to raise funds – ultimately helping these companies to grow and create jobs.

"The inclusion of AIM and ISDX shares into ISAs would show that the Government is supporting much needed investment in small and mid-size quoted companies, which are the engines of growth of the UK economy. We look forward to engaging with the Government on this and providing input into the upcoming consultation."

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**Notes to editors:**

1. The Quoted Companies Alliance is the independent membership organisation that champions the interests of small to mid-size quoted companies. We campaign, we inform and we interact to help our members keep their businesses ahead. Through our activities, we ensure that our influence always creates impact for our members. For more information please visit [www.theqca.com](http://www.theqca.com).
2. The Quoted Companies Alliance Proposals for Taxation Reform – 2013 Budget – is available at: <http://www.theqca.com/about-us/responses/66112/quoted-companies-alliance-2013-budget-proposals.shtml>
3. The survey figures are based on a quarterly online survey across the small and mid-cap quoted sector, with members and associates of the Quoted Companies Alliance and contacts of BDO. The responding sample is weighted by industry to be representative of small and mid-cap UK quoted companies, as derived by the London Stock Exchange. Fieldwork was undertaken by research company YouGov. Fieldwork for the February Index was undertaken between 19/01/12 and 31/01/12, and the sample size was 237 adults. Fieldwork for the September Index was undertaken between 12/09/12 and 03/10/12, and the sample size was 200 adults. For more information about the survey, please visit: <http://bdoqcasentimentindex.co.uk/>