



The Quoted
Companies Alliance

Press Release

29 November 2011

The Chancellor's non-bank lending working group is good news at last

The Quoted Companies Alliance, the representative body for the UK's small and mid-cap quoted company sector, welcomes the Chancellor's announcement in the Autumn Statement to set up an industry working group on non-banking lending availability to mid-sized businesses.

According to the Autumn Statement, this industry working group will be run by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills and will explore how to further develop access to bond issues and other non-bank lending options for SMEs and mid-sized businesses.

Mid-sized companies' access to debt markets is an issue that the Quoted Companies Alliance, along with other leading industry groups, has been promoting throughout Government and industry in an effort to help improve access to finance for these businesses.

Tim Ward, Chief Executive of the Quoted Companies Alliance, commented: "The Chancellor's announcement to develop a working group focused on bond issues for mid-sized companies is a positive step forward for all those companies who feel they need to reduce their reliance on bank debt. The forgotten mid-sized companies need a helping hand. With further financing options they will be better equipped to weather the storm and create the growth this economy needs."

- Ends -

Contact:

The Quoted Companies Alliance:

Tim Ward, Chief Executive

+44 (0)20 7600 3745

tim.ward@theqca.com

Notes to editors:

The Quoted Companies Alliance represents the UK's small and mid-cap quoted companies. This sector is defined as those 2,000 companies that are quoted in the UK outside of the



**The Quoted
Companies Alliance**

FTSE 350. The Quoted Companies Alliance promotes the interests and views of its members to Government, Europe, regulators and other professional bodies, educates its members on best practices and provides a vital forum for networking. Celebrating 19 years in 2011, the Quoted Companies Alliance forms its views through highly focused committees and working groups, made up of directors and professional advisors from across the small and mid-cap quoted company sector. For more information, please visit: www.theqca.com