



NEW SERVICE AIMS TO TACKLE THE ISSUE OF UNCLAIMED ASSETS

London, United Kingdom, 19 February 2007 - ICSA Software International Limited, the software company of The Institute of Chartered Secretaries & Administrators (ICSA), is today pleased to announce the launch of its new asset reunification services, provided jointly with Assets Reunited Limited, a leading UK asset reunification specialist.

The new services are being offered to help companies be proactive in returning unclaimed assets to shareholders and customers. It comes at a time when some UK listed companies are facing criticism for using unclaimed funds to bolster profits and as the Treasury is looking to seize unclaimed assets to fund good causes.

The primary focus of the services will be the estimated £3 billion that UK companies hold in unclaimed shareholder assets. This is principally made up of unclaimed dissentient shareholder entitlements, dividends and windfall shares. The services will also target dormant accounts, unclaimed insurance policies and unclaimed pensions. The most common reasons for these unclaimed assets is that people move address without notifying the share registrar or company or possibly they die without leaving a record of their entitlements.

Although the issue of unclaimed assets is not a new one, ICSA Software's new service takes a fresh and dynamic approach to helping companies proactively address the issue at no cost to them.

"Companies should be proactively addressing asset reunification as part of their corporate governance, corporate social responsibility and private shareholder strategies" comments **John Ainsworth, Chief Executive of ICSA International**. "Not only does it help boost investor confidence and promote industry Best Practice, it is both morally and ethically right", concludes Mr Ainsworth.

Mike Evans, Managing Director of ICSA Software International, adds "Returning unclaimed assets is undisputedly the right thing to do, which is why we are delighted to be providing this new service with Assets Reunited to help companies address the issue. As part of ICSA, we are dedicated to providing innovative products and services that enable ICSA members, our clients, and companies in general, to demonstrate their commitment to corporate governance and corporate social responsibility. Our existing working relationship with the company secretaries of many UK companies, puts us in the ideal position to promote the issue of unclaimed assets and offer companies an independent asset reunification service, at no cost to them."

Echoing Mike Evans' view, **Les Clarke, Managing Director of Assets Reunited**, adds "Returning unclaimed assets enables companies to reassure stakeholders of their importance to the business. It also helps reduce shareholder management costs and helps to protect shareholders against identity fraud. We are delighted to be working with ICSA Software International and look forward to helping companies really tackle their unclaimed assets."

Many leading UK companies, including Barclays Bank, BUPA and Cadburys Schweppes, agree that companies should be proactively returning unclaimed assets, in particular unclaimed shareholder assets.

Commenting on this issue, **Patrick Gonsalves, Deputy Company Secretary, Barclays PLC**, said "Our view is that we have an obligation to return unclaimed monies to our shareholders. After all, it is their money."

Julian Sanders, Deputy Company Secretary, BUPA, adds "Taking action to return unclaimed assets is sound governance, good business practice and ethically right. It is something I feel all companies should actively be considering."

Sharing their views, **John Mills, Director of Group Secretariat, Cadburys Schweppes PLC**, identifies other benefits of addressing the issue "Pro-actively identifying 'gone away' and deceased shareholders will enable us to increase the accuracy and reduce the size of our registers. It will also help protect shareholders from identity fraud."

A key feature of the services provided by the ICSA Software International is that for every claim administered, it will donate 1% of its fee to ShareGift, the share donation charity (Registered No. 1052686).

Claire Mackintosh, Chief Executive of ShareGift, commented "We are delighted that the wide range of charities that ShareGift supports can benefit from this drive by ICSA Software International to help shareholders recover their lost and forgotten assets, both through donations of unwanted assets and thanks to this kind pledge."

Mike Evans, Managing Director of ICSA Software International, added "We are pleased that by assisting companies in returning assets that would have remained unclaimed, shares and monies are being returned to their rightful owners and donations made to ShareGift will increase the substantial amount that they are able to distribute annually to UK charities."

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Notes to editors

About ICSA Software International Limited

ICSA Software International Limited is the wholly owned software company of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA). With more than 2,500 clients worldwide and offices on five continents, ICSA Software International is the world's leading provider of global entity management, corporate governance and company secretarial compliance software.

Dedicated to providing specialist governance and compliance solutions, ICSA Software International cultivates constant feedback and knowledge gained through the ICSA, other professional bodies and end users to ensure its software applications continue to offer real solutions for today.

About ICSA

The ICSA (Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators) is the leading global professional body for company secretaries and senior administrators. Formed in 1891, the ICSA is an independent, self-regulating body operating under Royal Charter. With over 100 years' experience it is recognised as the global voice on corporate governance, boardroom and regulatory issues across all sectors.

ICSA: Qualifies Chartered Secretaries through its Qualifying Schemes; Promotes and supports Best Practice in all areas of corporate governance; Provides its members and students with a range of support services; Enforces a strict code of conduct with which all members are required to comply.

ICSA has 44,000 members and 27,000 students in over 70 countries. ICSA's headquarters are in London with separate operating units in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

About Assets Reunited Limited

Assets Reunited is an independent company set up to provide asset reunification services. Delivered by experienced professionals, it is committed to assisting corporate clients in returning unclaimed assets at no cost to the client. It has achieved success rates in excess of 75% with FTSE clients.

Assets Reunited has an innovative business model that enables it to manage very high volumes. It works with a range of UK and International tracing companies to offer a portfolio of services covering shareholdings, dissentient registers, pensions, dormant account and insurance policies.

Images

High-resolution images available on request from ICSA Software International.



Above (left to right):

Les Clarke, Managing Director Assets Reunited Limited, John Ainsworth, Chief Executive ICSA International, Mike Evans, CEO ICSA Software International Limited.



Above (right to left):

John Ainsworth, Chief Executive ICSA International, Les Clarke, Managing Director Assets Reunited Limited, Mike Evans, CEO ICSA Software International Limited.

Additional information

www.icsasoftware.com

www.assetsreunited.com

www.icsa.org.uk

www.sharegift.org.uk