

***aquilaheywood* placed in The Sunday Times Microsoft Tech Track 100 for a second year**

London – 10 October 2006

aquilaheywood, the leading supplier of pensions administration software solutions, is again placed in The Sunday Times Microsoft Tech Track 100 league table. This is the second year that *aquilaheywood* has been in the Tech Track 100, which is made up of Britain's fastest-growing private technology companies based on 2003-2005 sales growth. The Group recorded a year on year average sales growth of 41.63% over the two year period.

David Ackroyd, Chief Executive of *aquilaheywood*, commented:

"We are delighted to have been placed in The Sunday Times Microsoft Tech Track 100, an achievement which is particularly pleasing in that it is the second year running we have been placed within this league table. Our success reflects the continuous growth of the Group, and our leading position within our markets. I firmly believe that the growth we continue to show is as a direct result of the focus we have on quality and innovation and the dedication of our people.

For our clients, our strong financial growth enables us to continue to increase our investment in Research and Development, thereby ensuring that they can meet the needs of their members, both now and in the future."

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Notes to editors

aquilaheywood

aquilaheywood, the Group comprising *aquila* and *heywood*, is the leading supplier of pensions administration software solutions in the UK. The pension schemes for approximately 7 million members in more than 200 major organisations are run using the Group's three administration software solutions, *administrator*, *AXISE* and *altair*. These solutions cover the whole range of available schemes including DB, DC, hybrid, career average, cash balance

and stakeholder, as well as group and individual products such as SIPPs, income drawdown and flexible retirement.

The Group provides solutions to the Financial Services, Third Party Administration, Corporate and Public Sector pension scheme markets in the UK, Ireland and the rest of Europe. Its clients include Prudential, Norwich Union, BBC, Asda, BP, Diageo, the European Central Bank, Aon Consulting, JLT and most Local Authority schemes.

administrator is *aquila's* functionally rich, pensions administration software solution, which addresses the core administration, investment and communication requirements of all significant pension benefit and plan types. Its modern architecture offers a cost effective and low risk solution with proven capability and quality of delivery. *administrator's* Out Of The Box and Web Enabler components enable rapid deployment of transactional web access to individual members through a self-service model.

altair is *heywood's* next generation pensions software solution, which is fully browser-based with advanced web capabilities and takes full advantage of modern technology.

For those clients who wish to out-source their pensions IT function, all our solutions can be offered via a fully hosted or ASP service. To ensure a low risk implementation, the Group provides experienced consultancy services for business management comprising project management, process engineering, data migration, management information and system integration.

About The Sunday Times Microsoft Tech Track 100

Now in its sixth year, The Sunday Times Microsoft Tech Track 100 annual league table is compiled by Oxford-based research and events company Fast Track. It was published with *The Sunday Times* business section on 24 September and on www.fasttrack.co.uk. In addition to title sponsor Microsoft, the league table is co-sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

League table criteria

Companies are ranked according to their annual growth rate in sales between 2003 and 2005. Companies had to be unquoted, independent and registered in Britain. The league table adopts the London Stock Exchange's techMARK definition of what constitutes a technology company. Companies primarily engaged in simply reselling or reassembly were excluded, as were IT consultants that do not develop proprietary technology. Companies also had to forecast an increase in sales from 2005 to 2006, but were not required to be in profit.

The research was carried out by Fast Track between April and August. All companies were interviewed by telephone and the majority (81) have also been visited by the Fast Track research team.

About Microsoft

Microsoft provides organisations with the technology they need to excel in their markets, based on Microsoft server, client and developer technologies as well as the comprehensive business applications offered by Microsoft Business Solutions.

About Fast Track

Fast Track is an Oxford-based independent research, publishing and networking events company which tracks Britain's top-performing private companies, ranging from the fastest-growing to the biggest.

The company was founded and is run by Dr Hamish Stevenson, who is also an associate fellow of Templeton College, Oxford University.

Website: www.fasttrack.co.uk