

POSTAL NEWS

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1. New Agreement For Western Union/ New Zealand Post

Tuesday, 10 February 2009, 12:31 pm

Press Release: Professional Public Relations NZ Ltd

Western Union, New Zealand Post Enter New Five-Year Agreement

Auckland, February 10, 2009 – The Western Union Company, a worldwide leader in money transfer services, announced today that it has entered a five-year agreement with New Zealand Post to continue to offer international money transfer services at PostShops throughout the country.

The General Manager for New Zealand Post Payment Services, Terese Tunnicliffe, said the agreement ensured an important continuity for the business and the public who used Post outlets to transfer funds. “Western Union is a proven, fast and reliable service and is an essential facility in the more than 300 communities where New Zealand Post operates.”

“With Western Union, our customers can stay connected to their friends and families in the Pacific Islands, Asia, and the rest of the world, not only through letters and parcels but also with money transfers.”

Paul Crawford, Western Union’s Regional Vice President for Oceania, said: “New Zealand is an important market for Western Union. We are delighted to continue to be associated with a true heritage brand like New Zealand Post and to serve our customers through its wide-reaching network, from Kaitaia in the North Island, to Bluff in the South Island.”

Western Union® Money TransferSM has been available through New Zealand Post for the past 7 years.

Western Union is a fast and convenient way to send money to over 320,000 Agent locations in more than 200 countries and territories¹ around the world. No bank account is required to send and receive money, and there are no charges for the receiver².

¹ Network data as of September 2008.

² In addition to the transfer fee, Western Union also makes money when it changes money into foreign currency.

2. IPTV Postal Service Available from Next Year

Updated Feb.17,2009 12:31 KST

Koreans will soon be able to post and receive letters through the IPTV or Internet Protocol Television from as early as next year.

Officials at the Knowledge Economy Ministry say they will establish a postal service using IPTV technology within this year to be commercialized in 2010.

The new system will also enable users to get access to various shopping and financial services. A test run is expected around September.

Arirang News

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3. Hon Hai, postal and telecom firms dubbed as charitable companies

Central News Agency

2009-02-16 09:15 PM

Taipei, Feb. 16 (CNA) Hon Hai Precision, Chunghwa Telecom and Chunghwa Post have been voted by local office workers as Taiwan's most charitable enterprises in the manufacturing, service and financial sectors, respectively.

Trailing Hon Hai Precision in the manufacturing sector were Uni-President Group, CPC Corp. (Taiwan), Formosa Petrochemical Corp., and China Steel Corp., according to the results of the poll released by the 1111 job bank Monday.

Amid a global economic slowdown, hundreds of Taiwan-based enterprises signed a pledge late last year to endorse a call by the government not to cut jobs in this difficult time.

The companies were selected for their performance in keeping employees' jobs, fulfilling their social responsibility and promoting social activity, as well as for their management styles.

In the service sector, Chunghwa Telecom was voted as the most charitable company, ahead of Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, President Chain Store Corp., Carrefour, and Acer Corp. in that order.

Chunghwa Post, Bureau of Labor Insurance, Bank of Taiwan, Cathay Life Insurance Company and Nan Shan Life Insurance Company were the top five charitable companies in the financial sector, according to the survey.

Close to 60 percent of the office workers responding to the poll contended that the companies for which they worked were not among these compassionate businesses and 86 percent of them were considering changing their jobs, the poll found.

(By Flor Wang)

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4. Finnish Postal Operations Decline Slightly

17 February 2009 by Franz Groter - © Hellmail.co.uk

The Finnish Postal service, which forms part of the Itella Group, reports that consolidated net sales totaled EUR 1,952.9 million, up 14.2%. Net sales rose by 7.1%

in Finland and by 34.1% in other countries. International operations accounted for 31% of net sales.

Consolidated EBIT excluding the impairment loss recorded for ItellaNLC decreased by 6.6% to EUR 95.1 million, representing 4.9% of net sales. This decline was mainly due to a rise in labor costs and fuel prices.

The sharp exchange rate fluctuations at the end of the year resulted in substantial financial expenses, reducing the profit before taxes considerably.

Although net liabilities increased, the company's solidity remained stable. Equity ratio stood at 51.1%.

Itella Mail Communication launched major investments in mail sorting and delivery in Finland. The profitability of Finnish postal operations declined slightly. Itella Information improved its profitability while continuing to grow and expand.

Itella Logistics experienced strong growth particularly in Russia. The weakening of the economic conditions had a negative effect on profitability, and operating profit (EBIT) decreased clearly. Russian operative business developed as expected, but due to the global financial crisis, a goodwill impairment loss of EUR 26.1 million was recorded for the ItellaNLC subsidiary.

The Board of Directors' dividend proposal is EUR 10.0 million.

The number of employees within the Group rose by more than 25%, standing at nearly 31,700 at the end of the year. The employees are rewarded with a bonus of EUR 2.9 million.

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Tue Feb 17, 2009 3:35am GMT
The Financial Times

5. BROWN TO PUSH FOR EARLY BILL ON POSTAL SELL-OFF

Government insiders say Prime Minister Gordon Brown will go ahead with controversial legislation to part-privatise Royal Mail [GBPO.UL] "within weeks", despite the prospect of a backbench rebellion. Brown is determined to confront the rebel Labour MPs and the main postal union, which has threatened to revoke its financial support for the party. Among the concessions offered by ministers is a provision in the bill requiring that the majority of Royal Mail remains under public ownership. However, the government maintains that any regulatory changes will not be a substitute for part-privatisation. Postal affairs minister Pat McFadden said the government had to act to address Royal Mail's pension deficit, the decline in mail volumes and the group's failure to modernise.

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