

News Release

May 19, 2005

PZ Cussons puts crucial business data at staff's fingertips

~ Imperial Leather manufacturer signs 5-year, \$4.5 million contract with Equant ~

Equant has signed a 5-year, \$4.5 million IP VPN contract with PZ Cussons, the international consumer products group, to connect 14 sites globally.

PZ Cussons will use Equant IP VPN for mission-critical enterprise resource planning applications and Equant Voice for IP VPN for voice calls. The network will connect PZ Cussons staff at its U.K. headquarters in Stockport as well as at sites in: Australia, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Poland, Thailand, U.S. and United Arab Emirates.

Equant's managed service builds on the existing in-country network infrastructure between offices and manufacturing plants and will enable crucial business information to be shared group-wide in a timely, reliable and consistent manner. Employees will be able to access data using the PZ Cussons MFG/PRO software as well as through Microsoft Exchange, Internet and intranet services. Equant also provides PZ Cussons the ability to benefit from video across the IP network in the future, allowing closer working relationships between disparate geographies.

"In the manufacturing sector, we need to be able to respond quickly to market fluctuation," said Ged Bithell, technical senior executive at PZ Cussons International.

“The Equant project will enable us to do this by ensuring all our international offices have every bit of the information they need to operate efficiently.”

“The Equant project is crucial to our business,” he added. “As a global company, we needed to select a technology partner that matched our reach.”

Andrew McFadzen, general manager for U.K. and Ireland at Equant, said: “Equant already had an established track record of work in West Africa and, as a result, PZ Cussons was aware of our technical and local market knowledge. As part of this contract, we agreed comprehensive SLAs with PZ Cussons that have helped ensure increased confidence in our service.

“Once the initial implementation is complete, the next stage will be to allow PZ Cussons to benefit from full videoconferencing services which will take company efficiency to the next level,” he added.

(325 words)

NOTES TO EDITORS

About PZ Cussons:

PZ Cussons currently manufactures and distributes over 30 brands across its global network of companies in Europe, Africa and Asia. Our international policy has focused our efforts on specific geographical markets which demonstrate the potential for growth. We develop relevant, high quality and innovative products through having developed a deep understanding of the needs and aspirations of local consumers. These are distributed via the first class networks that have been established over our many years of global trading. With its headquarters in Manchester, United Kingdom, the Group employs more than 11,000 people around the world and had sales in 2004 of £489 million.

About Equant:

Equant is a recognised industry leader in global communications services for multinational businesses. Equant combines its network expertise with its expanded services capabilities to provide global, integrated and customised communication services to enable its customers' key business processes. Equant serves thousands of the world's top companies, with the industry's most extensive portfolio of communications services and network solutions, including the market-leading IP VPN used by nearly 1,300 global businesses. Equant, a subsidiary of France Telecom, consistently leads industry surveys in corporate user satisfaction.

This release may contain projections or other forward-looking statements related to Equant that involve risks and uncertainties. Readers are cautioned that these statements are only predictions and may differ materially from actual future results or events. Readers are referred to the documents filed by Equant with the SEC, specifically the most recent filing on SEC Form 20-F, which identifies important risk factors that could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements, including, among other things, risks relating to our history of operating losses, the unpredictability of growth in our industry, the fact that the interests of France Telecom, our largest shareholder, may differ from the interests of our other shareholders, changing technology, uncertain and changing regulatory restrictions, currency fluctuations, dependence on suppliers, network security issues, intense competition in our industry, and volatility of our stock price. All forward-looking statements are based on information available to Equant on the date hereof, and Equant assumes no obligation to update such statements.