



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**26 May 2009**

### **Travel Counsellors annual conference to be held in Manchester**

Travel Counsellors has announced that its annual conference this December will take place in Manchester at the city's 'Manchester Central' convention centre.

This follows the success of the company's 2007 conference which took place in the same venue.

Registration for the 2009 event taking place 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> December opened last week and so far over 400 of the company's agents have booked their place on what promises to be the company's best conference yet. This includes agents from the company's overseas operations including Ireland, the Netherlands, South Africa and Canada, with partners, suppliers and head office staff also to be in attendance.

As the most important event on the company calendar, the conference will enable the company's Travel Counsellors to enjoy a weekend full of exclusive events and activities focused around helping them build their businesses, keeping them informed of the latest news and developments within the company. It also gives the company's agents, who all run their travel businesses from home, the chance to come together and celebrate the company's success. They are also rewarded for their hard work at an annual awards ceremony and gala dinner.

Despite the current economic climate the company has also seen an impressive demand from suppliers requesting to attend, with many already on the waiting list following last year's conference.

Commenting on the event Travel Counsellors founder and Chairman David Speakman says; "There is no doubt it has been a tough year for the industry but we are firm believers in the power of positive thinking and know events such as our annual conference are truly inspirational and motivating for our agents. This year will be no exception and we will be making a host of new announcements including introducing new ways in which our agents can stay in touch with their customers. It's important we continue innovate when it comes to customer service which is at the heart of the business and is the reason that we continue to buck the current economic trend. There is such a fantastic atmosphere and feeling of camaraderie when our international family of agents get together and we are really looking forward to our best conference yet."

The company has reported a steady improvement in business and its recruitment figures continue to rise as travel professionals from across the industry recognise the benefits of running their own business from home with all the back office support they need so that they can focus on their customers, which is an even more appealing prospect in the current climate. The company now has nearly 1,100 Travel Counsellors, with 30% of these agents based in its overseas operations.

Travel Counsellors' 2008 conference took place in Marbella, with the company alternating between UK and overseas venues each year.

**ENDS**

**About Travel Counsellors:** Travel Counsellors is the world's largest home-based travel company with turnover at the end of its last financial year (Oct 31 2008) of £245 million, a 16% increase year on year. Founded in 1994 it



currently has over 1,000 travel consultants who work from home with the support of over 200 staff at the company's UK headquarters in Bolton and overseas offices. The company operates in the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, South Africa, Australia, Canada and the US. In the UK, the Travel Counsellors Trust financially protects everything booked by the customer free of charge. Travel Counsellors was the winner of the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2003-2008, the technology category of the 2005 CBI Growing Business Awards and was voted Travel Agent of the Year by readers of the Guardian, Observer and Guardian Unlimited in 2006 & 2007.

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