



PRESS RELEASE

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Travel Counsellors hosts its first Business Travel Conference

Travel Counsellors hosted an exclusive Business Travel Conference for its growing team of Business Travel Counsellors on Saturday 16th June at Birmingham NEC.

The company provided its Business Travel Counsellors with information and advice specifically tailored for the business travel market. This included presentations from Business Travel Manager Kevin Heath and Managing Director Steve Byrne on key areas including business development, product updates and presentation skills. A number of the company's key travel suppliers were also in attendance including Silverjet, Emirates and Virgin Atlantic. Other key members of staff from the Bolton head office also covered different areas of the business such as marketing, sales and finance.

The company has seen a significant growth in its business travel sector, with over 70 consultants now operating purely in corporate business travel and over 140 specialising in both business and leisure travel. This is in response to increasing demand by businesses for the superb and tailored service provided by its Travel Counsellors, who are the crème de la crème of the travel industry. The Business Travel Counsellors all have on average 18 years of experience and are supported by over 150 staff at the company's head office in Bolton, providing agents with a dedicated programme of support covering all areas including administration, marketing and technology.

One of the highlights of the conference was a question and answer session with one of the company's top Business Travel Counsellors Neil Mewes, who joined Travel Counsellors two years ago and has since grown his business to over £1.25m annual turnover.

"It was a real honour to be asked to appear at the conference and I hope I imparted some useful information to others," says Neil. "Business Travel is such a specialised field within the industry that I feel has been overlooked for too long. The Conference reinforces the company's commitment to this field and to its Business Travel Counsellors, who are all committed to providing their corporate clients with a unique travel service. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet like minded people and exchange ideas, and I gained some useful knowledge that I know will help me improve my business further."

The company is the world's largest home-based company, with over 780 Travel Counsellors, working from home throughout the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany and the USA. The company has also recently expanded into South Africa and Australia with further overseas expansion planned.

Travel Counsellors has been listed in the Financial Times/Virgin Atlantic Fast Track 100 list of companies on four consecutive occasions and was listed in Business Travel World as one of the top 50 TMC's in the UK for 2006. The company is the only travel agency to be the winner of the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise 2003-2008. Readers of the Guardian, Observer and Guardian Unlimited recently voted Travel Counsellors 2006 Travel Agent of the Year.

Commenting on the conference, Travel Counsellors Managing Director Steve Byrne said; "Travel Counsellors is extremely proud of the service we provide businesses. We feel it was important to provide our Business Travel Counsellors with their own conference that specifically catered to their knowledge and skills, so they can continue to provide companies with a dedicated personal service to cater to all their business travel needs. It is a very exciting time for our business travel sector and we look forward to continued growth and success."



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About Travel Counsellors: Travel Counsellors PLC is one of the UK's largest independent travel companies with turnover at the end of its last financial year (Oct 31 2006) of £175 million, a 17% increase year on year. Founded in 1994 it currently has over 780 travel consultants who work from home with the support of over 150 staff at the company's head office in the UK. The company also operates in Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany, South Africa, Australia and the US. 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 2006 Travel Agent of the Year by readers of the Guardian, Observer and Guardian Unlimited. In 2007 the company won the Accenture Innovation Award and the Outstanding Achievement Award at the Travel Weekly Globe Awards.

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