

PRESS RELEASE

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Travel Counsellors expands its senior team

Travel Counsellors PLC is pleased to announce the appointment of two key members of staff, both reporting to managing director Steve Byrne, as the company continues to build its senior team due to rapid expansion.

Simon Jeffries, 37, has joined the company as contracts manager. He was previously long haul holidays supply manager at Altrincham based Cresta Holidays, and worked for what is now known as the BCT Travel Group since 1996. As contracts manager at Travel Counsellors PLC, Simon is responsible for developing and managing the accommodation side of Travel Counsellors' Phenix dynamic packaging system.

Commenting on his appointment, Simon said: 'I am delighted to have joined such a dynamic company as Travel Counsellors. There is a real culture of innovation here and with some of the most advanced technology in the industry there is enormous potential for us to make our Travel Counsellors even more profitable by working closely with those suppliers who support us and also by adding our own directly contracted product where appropriate.'

Meanwhile Alex Buckle, 27, has joined Travel Counsellors as Project Co-ordinator. Alex previously worked as Avis national account manager for three years, prior to which he worked for Thomas Cook for seven years, most recently as national account manager. Alex will have a wide-ranging role which will include further developing the company's relationships with suppliers; implementing new recruitment ideas and looking at new ways of marketing the company to the trade and to the wider public.

Commenting on his appointment Alex said: "My wife Emma is a Personal Travel Counsellor and Travel Counsellors was one of the accounts that I managed while I was at Avis so I already know quite a lot about the company. The one thing that attracted me to Travel Counsellors more than anything else is that unlike most travel companies it's not all about selling as much as you can as cheaply as you can, but is about excellence in product and service and finding exactly the right thing for the customer. I love the way the company is so innovative and forward thinking and has so many exciting plans for the future and am really excited about my new role."

Managing director Steve Byrne said: "I am pleased to welcome both Simon and Alex to Travel Counsellors where they will prove very valuable additions to the head office team. We are expanding rapidly both here in the UK and overseas and as a result we are always interested to hear from more senior travel managers who are interested in joining a company that is unique in terms of its dynamism, energy and positive outlook for the future."

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EDITOR'S NOTES: Travel Counsellors PLC is one of the UK's largest independent travel companies with turnover at the end of its last financial year (Oct 312005) of £150 million, a 17% increase year on year. Founded by chairman David Speakman in 1994 it currently has over 588 travel consultants in the UK and Ireland who work from home with the support of over 110 staff at the company's head office in Bolton, Greater Manchester. During 2005 the company expanded into Southern Ireland where it now has 19 consultants and the Netherlands, where it has seven consultants to date. Travel Counsellors places all customer money in a Trust account, administered by the Barclays Bank Trust Company, which guarantees a 100% refund in the event that a supplier collapses. Travel Counsellors was the winner of the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2003 and the winner of the technology in business category of the 2005 CBI Growing Business Awards.

For further information contact:

Helen Furnivall, public relations manager

Travel Counsellors PLC, Travel House, Churchgate, Bolton BL1 1TH.

www.travelcounsellors.com

Tel: 01204 536047

E-mail: helen.furnivall@travelcounsellors.com