

## **PRESS RELEASE**

March 10 2006

### **Half of all Travel Counsellors agents book for conference in first hour!**

Travel Counsellors has once again seen an amazing response from its consultants eager to book for the company's annual conference.

Every year its consultants compete with each other to be the first to book – and this year has been no different. The intranet conference booking system opened at 11am on Friday morning, with 111 Counsellors booking in the first five minutes and 180 by the time 10 minutes were up. Julie Durrans, based in York was the very first Personal Travel Counsellor to book a place – completing and submitting her online registration form in one minute and 12 seconds.

Within the first hour over half of the company's 586 agents in the UK, Ireland and the Netherlands had managed to book their place. The company expects that over 90% of its consultants will attend the conference which takes place from November 11-14, making it one of the biggest agent events to take place this year. Last year 126 counsellors booked in the first hour, with 174 booking on the first day that bookings opened.

In what could be a travel agency first, Travel Counsellors is to hold its 2006 Conference on board Royal Caribbean's Voyager of the Seas, departing from Barcelona. Features of the 138,000 ton ship include a rock climbing wall, royal promenade, 9 hole miniature golf course, day spa and fitness centre and full size basketball court. Voyager's ice skating rink will be covered over to form the venue for Travel Counsellors' gala dinner and awards evening.

Commenting on the fantastic response to the event Travel Counsellors Chairman David Speakman said: "Our Counsellors are passionate and enthusiastic about their jobs and I think that shines through in the way that they all to rush to book for our Conference at the earliest possible opportunity. Our annual Conference is the highlight of our year and while we encourage all of our Travel Counsellors to try to attend at the end of the day they are self employed and so the decision is up to them. We try very hard to keep in close contact with all our home based agents through initiatives such as TCTV and our regional events throughout the year, but it's impossible to replicate the fantastic atmosphere when everyone gets together at our annual event."

The 2005 Travel Counsellors Conference took place at Birmingham's International Convention Centre from Dec 2-4 2005 with 435 travel consultants attending, and over 800 delegates in total.

### **ENDS**

EDITOR'S NOTES: Travel Counsellors PLC is one of the UK's largest independent travel agencies with turnover at the end of its last financial year (Oct 31 2005) of £150 million, a 17% increase year on year. Founded by chairman David Speakman in 1994 it currently has over 560 travel consultants nationwide who work from home with the support of over 110 staff at the company's head office in Bolton, Greater Manchester. During 2005 it also expanded into Southern Ireland, where it now has 15 consultants and the Netherlands, where it has six consultants to date. Travel Counsellors prides itself on the exceptional levels of personal service it offers its clients, a fact that was recognised in 2003 when it received the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise. 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.

### **For further information contact:**

Helen Furnivall, public relations manager  
Travel Counsellors PLC, Travel House, Churchgate, Bolton BL1 1TH.

[www.travelcounsellors.com](http://www.travelcounsellors.com)

Tel: 01204 536047

E-mail: [helen.furnivall@travelcounsellors.com](mailto:helen.furnivall@travelcounsellors.com)