

29 October 2009

press release

Employee owned companies continue to outperform the FTSE All-Share as third quarter of 2009 sees employee owned company shares up 27.6%

Employee owned companies outperformed the FTSE All-Share Index in the third quarter of 2009 according to the UK Employee Ownership Index (EOI) published by law firm, Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP.

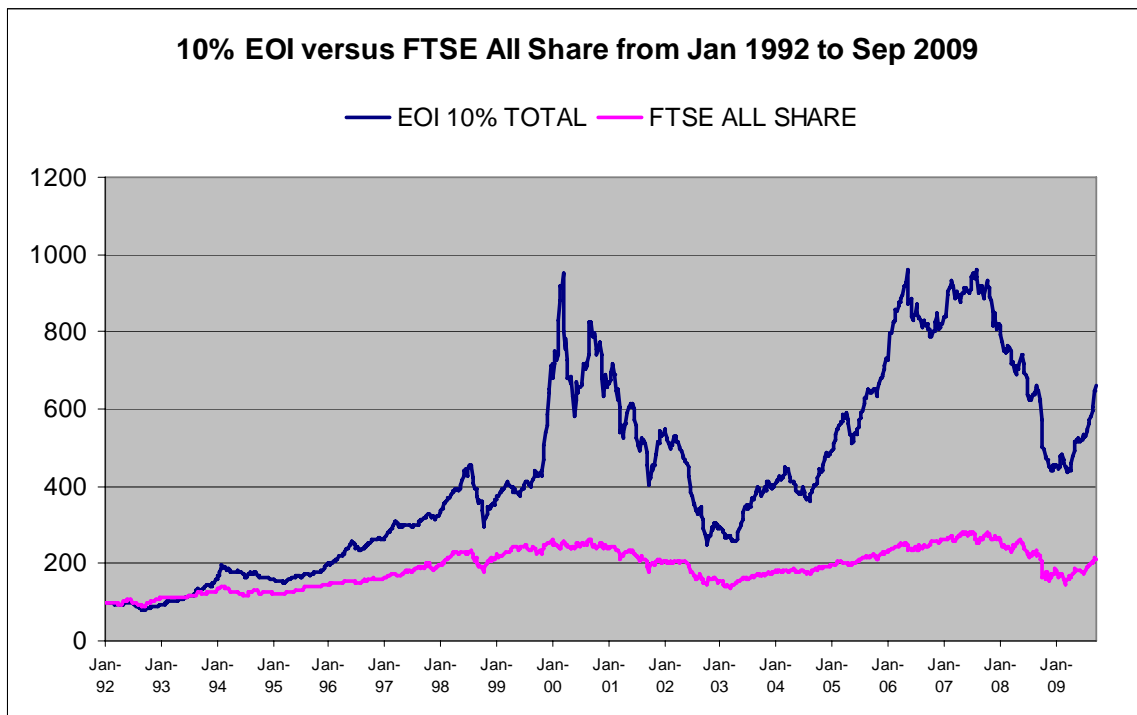
Employee owned companies' share prices were up 27.6%, performing better than FTSE All Share companies' share prices which were up 21.3% over the quarter.

The EOI, compiled by the firm's Equity Incentives team, monitors the share price performance of listed companies, comparing the performance of FTSE All-Share companies with companies that are over 10% owned by employees.

Employee owned companies have consistently outperformed the FTSE All-Share over the course of 2009, a trend that is also seen over the long term.

Over the last 17 years, employee owned companies have outperformed FTSE All-Share companies each year by an average of 10%. Over successive three year periods they have outperformed by 41% and over successive five year periods by 78%.

<p>An investment of £100 in the EOI in 1992 would at the end of September 2009 have been worth £663 whilst the same investment in the FTSE All-Share Index would be worth £212.</p>



Graeme Nuttall, head of the Equity Incentives team at Field Fisher Waterhouse says:

“Throughout 2009 we have seen employee owned companies outperform the FTSE All Share. This reflects the long term view – in 17 years of monitoring their share price performance we have seen that despite short term fluctuations employee owned companies are more successful.”

The Equity Incentives team at Field Fisher Waterhouse produces quarterly reports on EOI performance which are regularly referenced by the media, most recently Radio Four’s Today programme and Scotland on Sunday. The team advises on employee ownership solutions for a variety of business structures as well as incentive plans for UK and overseas listed and private companies and has had detailed and broad ranging input into Government share plans policy.

- ends -

For further press information please contact:

Louise Eckersley, PR Manager, Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP on +44 (0)20 7861 4120

Margherita Orlandini, PR Executive, Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP on +44 (0)20 7861 4995

EOI

The UK Employee Ownership Index is compiled by the Equity Incentives team at Field Fisher Waterhouse and tracks the performance of UK-quoted companies that are over 10% owned by employees (excluding main board directors) or employee trusts. The degree of employee share ownership is determined on the basis of best available information. The UK Employee Ownership Index does not necessarily include all quoted companies with a significant degree of employee ownership.

FTSE is a registered trademark of London Stock Exchange plc and The Financial Times Limited. All-Share is a registered trademark of FTSE International Limited.

Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP

Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP is a full service European law firm with offices in Brussels, Hamburg, Paris, London and Manchester and exclusive relationships with Spanish firm Jiménez de Parga and Italian firm, La Scala. The firm has over 130 partners, 220 other lawyers and nearly 300 support staff. We assist a wide range of international clients, advising across the full range of legal issues.

Our international client base includes listed and unlisted companies, multinationals, banks and other financial institutions, professional partnerships, trade associations and Government departments. A distinctive feature of the firm is our industry focus. For example, we are acknowledged as leading experts in the public sector, technology and media sectors.