

# EUROPE'S LARGEST WEB FARM CONTINUES TO EXPAND

Submitted by: Banner Corporation plc

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## Planet Online Opens New Internet Data Centre

5 April 00, Leeds - Planet Online, the award winning business Internet company which is part of Energis, today opens a new Internet Data Centre in Leeds as part of its aggressive expansion plans to provide Internet solutions to businesses across Europe.

The new hosting facility, situated on Gotts Road in Leeds, is Planet's second UK Internet Data Centre and third site in total, and represents its commitment to web hosting, e-commerce and Applications Service Provision (ASP). Planet is reportedly operating the largest web farm in Europe, hosting web sites for over 4,000 business customers on more than 700 servers.

The new site, 26,000 sq ft in size, employs state-of-the-art technology to ensure that customer web sites and all other Internet applications are protected against any system, network or power failure. The existence of two sites in Leeds will bolster this level of service.

Planet currently hosts almost half of all Internet-based information in the UK, which is five times more than its nearest competitor and includes many of the UK's most heavily accessed commercial web sites, such as Freeserve.

The new site will be opened today at an unveiling ceremony performed by Councillor Brian Walker, Leader of Leeds City Council. Guests at the ceremony will hear managing director John Beaumont's vision for the future of Planet.

He comments, "Planet handles over 400,000 emails per hour and receives more than one million hits per day on the web sites it hosts. We have more than doubled in size within the last year or so and our growth is set to continue. Our new Internet Data Centre demonstrates our commitment to the continued investment and growth of Planet's hosting operation and the evolution of such added value services."

Further Internet Data Centres are now operational in Amsterdam and Frankfurt.

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## About Planet Online

Planet Online, the UK's leading business ISP, is a member of the Energis Group. Planet has the largest web server hosting data centre in Europe and provides the hosting infrastructure for Freeserve, which has attracted nearly two million registered, active users. Planet Online customers include some of the major corporations in Europe, companies such as Colt Mitsubishi, Xerox, Yamaha Music, Pirelli Tyres, Samsung, Rover Group, Nestle, Microsoft and Virgin Clothing. The Planet Online web site can be visited at [www.theplanet.net](http://www.theplanet.net).

## About Energis

Energis plc is a telecommunications and Internet company, focused exclusively on the business marketplace. Energis plc was founded in 1993. It offers businesses a full portfolio of voice, data and Internet services. Major national clients include the BBC, Renault and Whitbread. Its network is built primarily along the National Grid's electricity pylon infrastructure. The company has over 6,500 kilometres of fibre optic cable installed throughout England and Wales, a capacity sharing agreement with Thus and a joint venture with Viridian in Northern Ireland.

\* In September 1999, Energis acquired Unisource Carrier Services (now called Energis Carrier Services), a Pan-European carriers' carrier.

\* In November 1999, Energis acquired a 5.6% stake in Geo Interactive Media ("GEO"), a leading Internet technology company. The investment gives Energis exclusive four year European-wide rights to GEO's patented audio and video streaming technology.

\* In January 2000, Energis completed the acquisition of EnerTel, the Dutch telecoms operator and a mini-Energis, for £352 million.

\* In February 2000, Energis acquired a 30% stake for £7.5 million in Broker-to-Broker Networks Inc. "B2B"), a financial e-commerce/online broking software and support company. The investment will be made in tranches during 2000. In March 2000 Energis acquired carrier24. Based in Munich the company will operate the third largest alternative network in Germany in terms of route kms and number of cities connected and has licences in Germany, Austria and Luxembourg and Switzerland.

For More Information Please Contact:

Marta Judge

Planet Online Press Office

Tel: 0113 207 6065

Email: [marta.judge@theplanet.net](mailto:marta.judge@theplanet.net)

Conor Griffin

Planet Online Press Office

Tel: 0113 207 6632

Email: [conor.griffin@theplanet.net](mailto:conor.griffin@theplanet.net)

Kristina Fitzsimmons

Banner Public Relations

Tel: 020 7349 2200

Email: planet@b1.com

For photography of the Gotts Road premises, please contact Judith Schunke on 0207 349 2200