

23 October 2002

Murgitroyd wins major global Trade Mark portfolio

Murgitroyd Group PLC ("Murgitroyd"), the Glasgow based Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys, has been awarded the contract to manage the Trade Mark portfolio of Kyndal Spirits Limited ("Kyndal"), including whisky and spirits brands Whyte and Mackay, Vladivar and Glayva.

Kyndal, one of the world's leading suppliers of own label, private label and branded Scotch whisky and premium spirits, will be Murgitroyd's largest Trade Mark client. Under the contract Murgitroyd's responsibilities will encompass filing, prosecuting, litigating and renewing Trade Marks across 85 countries.

Murgitroyd has also been formally retained by Queen's University Belfast to manage their entire Intellectual Property portfolio, having built a relationship working on individual projects during the past five years.

Ian Murgitroyd, Chairman of Murgitroyd, said:

"I am delighted that we have secured the contract to manage Kyndal's prestigious whisky and spirits Trade Mark portfolio. It is a significant win for Murgitroyd. Key to our success was our ability to demonstrate consistently high levels of service across our network, which will be critical to manage Kyndal's Trade Mark portfolio worldwide.

"Our formal appointment by Queen's University, in the face of tough and open competition, is another great encouragement. Our services have been judged objectively and we have retained the contract on professional merit.

"These two positive developments add to a very encouraging financial and trading performance since 31 May 2002."

Brian Megson, Chief Executive of Kyndal, commented:

"Following a careful review we are pleased to appoint Murgitroyd as our Trade Mark Attorneys for all markets. We were impressed by Murgitroyd's industry knowledge and experience in managing international Trade Mark portfolios and look forward to working with them."

Murgitroyd's AGM will be held today at 11am at Cardew & Co., 12 Suffolk Street, London SW1Y 4HQ.

For further information please contact:

Ian Murgitroyd, Chairman, Murgitroyd, 0141 307 8400
Keith Young, Chief Executive, Murgitroyd, 0141 307 8400
Alasdair Robinson, Noble & Co., 0131 225 9677
Nadja Vetter, Cardew & Co., 020 7930 0777

Notes to Editors:

Murgitroyd

Murgitroyd is an established European Patent and Trade Mark Attorney practice providing Intellectual Property ("IP") services, including filing, prosecuting, litigating, licensing, assigning and renewing Patents, Trade Marks, Designs and advising on Copyright to companies ranging from large multi-national corporations to individual inventors and both in-house and external Patent Attorneys.

The company floated on AIM on 30 November 2001 in order to provide funding for expansion through the development of a pan-European intellectual property service. Murgitroyd now has offices in Glasgow, Aberdeen, Belfast, Dublin, London, Munich and Nice. More recently Murgitroyd has entered into a strategic alliance with Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, a substantial US law firm, which will act as the company's preferred supplier for work carried out for clients in the US. Murgitroyd also works with associated Patent and Trade Mark attorney practices worldwide.

In the twelve months to 31 May 2002, Murgitroyd & Company's turnover increased by 16.8% from £7,749,000 to £9,053,000. Gross margin percentage increased from 60.7% to 65.2% and profit before taxation (excluding exceptional items) increased by 49.2% from £425,000 to £634,000.

Kyndal

Kyndal has a 9% share of the worldwide Scotch whisky market with brands such as Whyte and Mackay, The Dalmore and Isle of Jura. Kyndal owns 5 malt distilleries, a grain distillery and bottling and packaging facilities in Scotland. In the year ended December 2000, Kyndal generated an operating profit of £20.4 million from sales of £126 million, representing 7.4 million cases of spirits. In addition to its brand sales which include Vladivar and Glayva, Kyndal is the world's leading supplier of private label Scotch whisky. The company is headquartered in Glasgow and employs more than 750 people in Scotland.

Kyndal was formed in October 2001 as the result of the acquisition of JBB (Greater Europe) from Fortune Brands in Scotland's largest management buy-out led by Brian Megson.