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Further funding for CCTV specialist Manchester Metronet

YFM Private Equity are pleased to announce the completion of a second investment into **Metronet UK**, the gigabit wireless network operator, to support expansion into other regions of the UK to meet increasing customer demand.

The YFM managed **North West Business Investment Scheme** first invested in 2004 at start-up alongside private investors in an Acceleris Corporate Finance led deal. Closure of this new round of funding from the existing shareholders reflects strong support for the management's customer-led strategy of expansion.

Metronet-UK initially spotted the opportunity to re-engineer the moth-balled wireless assets of a dot-com business.

This began relationships with global technology providers that have led to the point where Metronet-UK is the leading installer and operator of 80GHz wireless systems in the UK, offering very cost effective and rapidly deployable ultra high performance private and leased wireless networks.

An early customer was **Manchester City Council** who recognised the potential to develop the UK's most advanced re-deployable CCTV system. This is now a key crime prevention and monitoring system for an increasing number of councils and police divisions across Greater Manchester, offering incomparable value for money and flexibility compared to a traditional hard wired system. Demand for expansion outside of this region is well established and underway in Liverpool, Leeds, Dublin and the Midlands.

The company has since built up a diverse high quality customer base ranging from local authority and governmental customers through to corporates and professional service customers seeking cost effective leased-line last mile solutions or more specialist high bandwidth needs. This last category is growing strongly as service providers look to keep up with users the requirements of high bandwidth applications such as video conferencing, voice over ip, large file transfer, etc.

Elliot Mueller the CEO of Metronet said "The closing of this further investment by the shareholders in Metronet-UK is a great endorsement of the business and will allow us to capitalise on the strong demand from customers who recognise the cost savings and flexibility that wireless offers. When the business first launched, wireless networking was an emerging technology; the latest Metronet-UK network upgrade moves way beyond Wi-Max which many expected to be the next big step. Wireless technology will continue to develop rapidly. The Metronet-UK mission is to deliver the associated service, performance benefits, cost savings and flexibility to our customers as soon we can."

Latest Deals Across the North West

Silistix	November	Computer Semi-conductors	<i>Manchester Science Park developer of asynchronous silicon chip technology</i>
K3 Business Technology	November	Computer Software	<i>A leading supplier of Microsoft based business solutions</i>
Byotrol	November	Chemicals and Materials	<i>Produce revolutionary hygiene technology</i>
CBG Group	November	Services	<i>General insurance, risk management and financial services intermediary</i>
Eclipse Energy	November	Energy	<i>Develop sustainable offshore natural gas and wind energy resources</i>
Reaxa	October	Chemicals and Materials	<i>Precious metal chemistry</i>

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Portfolio Updates



Begbies rides high on insolvencies

Professional services business, Begbies Traynor, have released pleasing trading updates for the six months to 31 October. Levels and margins in the group's insolvency and corporate recovery operations rose ahead of the same period last year and well ahead of the second-half performance for the last financial year. NWBIS backed Begbies Traynor in 2004, the development capital has enabled the business to increase staff numbers and make several acquisitions.



New orders for Surface Transforms

Excellent news for AIM-listed Surface Transforms who have secured three new orders worth over £150,000 from leading European missile manufacturer MBDA, a jointly owned venture between BAE Systems, EADS and Finmeccanica. The orders are to supply a range of carbon-ceramic composite materials to be used on component design, fabrication and test performance. Surface Transforms first received expansion capital from NWBIS in 2004.

For further details please call us on 0161 832 7603 or email [info @yfmgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@yfmgroup.co.uk)

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