

PRESS RELEASE

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UMS Group Inc joins DSTL's network of APT software experts

John Woodhouse, managing director, Decision Support Tools Ltd (DSTL) and Jack Shearman, chief executive of UMS Group Inc signed a Distribution Agreement for DSTL's Asset Performance Toolset (APT) covering the provision of software, training and consulting services to the USA, Holland and Germany, with specific focus on electrical and water utilities. UMS is the latest to join a growing network of asset management experts and facilitators that share information, best practices and leading edge decision-support tools.



*John Woodhouse, Managing Director, DSTL (pictured left)
with Jack Shearman, Chief Executive Officer, UMS Group Inc.*

UMS Group is an international utility management consulting firm specialising in the global energy and utilities industries. Their clients include hundreds of the world's leading companies, including those in developing or recently liberalised markets.

Phil Summerfield, new alliances director for DSTL said: *"This is an exciting opportunity for the industrial asset management industry which combines the experience and skills of UMS with DSTL's advanced APT decision support toolset. Current users of the APT software include: SASOL, SABIC, Pirelli, Tube Lines, National Grid and other major organisations."*

Regnerus Coops, global leader for UMS Group's Asset Management Solutions said: *"We are excited to join with DSTL to bring this powerful offer to leading utility companies in these markets. The APT decision support toolset is a strong complement to our existing tools and capabilities, and takes us a long way toward the comprehensive asset management services offer that our global utility clients have been looking for."*

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Notes to Editors:

Decision Support Tools Ltd is the technical solutions division of The Woodhouse Partnership (TWPL) (following acquisition of APT Ltd, the leading-edge analysis, modelling & optimisation company). DSTL provides both off-the-shelf and customised modeling and optimisation tools for capital investment appraisal, life cycle costing & renewal timing, inspection, maintenance and shutdown intervals, spares and inventory optimisation. In particular, DSTL provides unique methods and structured disciplines and "what if?" solutions to support decisions when appropriate hard data is not available or is inadequate/unreliable. For more information visit: www.decisionsupporttools.com

TWPL created in 1995 by a team of 8 senior executives of UK companies with the aim of breaking the 'temporary enthusiasm' cycle of many management improvement efforts. Since then, it has grown to c.40 professionals working in over 25 countries and most industrial sectors. The company has been instrumental in many of the leading developments in best practices and asset management standards, including chairing the production of the BSI PAS 55 standard, the Institute of Asset Management's Competency Framework. TWPL now provides assessments, certification, strategic roadmapping, implementation support and education, including MSc programmes, e-learning and customised workplace mentoring.

Asset Performance Tools (APT) were first developed in the late 1990s by a consortium of international organisations as part of the multi-million pound European MACRO programme. TWPL were overall project managers for this collaboration project, which researched best practices and commissioned the development of processes and tools to encourage the right questions to be asked, to calculate the optimal compromise between competing pressures and to explore the impact of uncertainty and different scenarios. The resulting commercial toolkit was thereafter continuously developed and refined by APT Ltd in response to operational experience from different environments, industries and countries.

Founded in 1989, UMS is a leading global consultancy in the practice of utility asset management, performance assessment and continuous improvement, and change leadership. UMS' proprietary benchmarking databases, analysis and decision support tools and best practice methodologies have been utilised by over 300 gas, water and electric utilities on five continents.