

STOCK MARKET EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS

In spring 2007, the Stock Exchange Game of the Swiss Universities (Börsenspiel der Schweizer Universitäten; BSU) once again provided large numbers of students with an insight into the intricacies of the global markets. The BSU Association which organises the Stock Exchange Game gives students throughout Switzerland an opportunity to gain their first experience of the financial markets, thus bridging the gap between theory and practice. The students assume the role of an asset manager and manage 1 000 000 Swiss francs, of fictional capital, which they aim to multiply during the Game. Prizes worth over 40 000 Swiss francs including work placements, await the best players.



This year – for the first time – students were able to base their investment decisions on first-hand financial information. Throughout the game, any interested participants were given the option of using the Telekurs **iD** financial display system free of charge when managing their virtual portfolio. As a result, Telekurs **iD** recorded an increase in its number of academic users one week before the start of the game, as 21% of the participants signed up to use the system. Winners in different categories and almost all of the weekly winners gained a clear lead in the information stakes thanks to Telekurs **iD**.



STANDARDISATION DRIVEN BY MiFID

The standardisation of financial data is becoming a highly topical issue as a result of the implementation of MiFID and Basel II. Industry standards are promoting the realisation of automation projects in the financial sector and are creating transparency as the volume and complexity of financial data grows. For example, MiFID regulations stipulate that a unique code must be used to identify issuers, banks, funds and brokers at a European level. The CFI code is becoming established as an appropriate solution for the classification of financial instruments, while the MIC code is used for the identification of markets and trading platforms. Finally, the finance industry this year implemented key measures to facilitate the pan-European introduction of International Business Entity Identifiers (IBEI / ISO 16372).

At the end of June 2007, the National Numbering Agencies (NNAs), Telekurs Financial, the London Stock Exchange and WM Datenservice began strengthening their cooperation in order to promote the use of the IBEI code within Europe. Nouredine Youss, the Telekurs Financial representative at ANNA and Chairman of an ISO Subcommittee, confirmed: "Italy, Spain and the UK are participating in the implementation of the IBEI code. Germany is the second European country after Switzerland to introduce the IBEI code for its domestic companies." November 1, 2007 has been set as the target date by which to achieve the broadest possible coverage and implementation of the standard.

Telekurs Financial already introduced the IBEI codes for companies domiciled in Switzerland and Liechtenstein in its Valordata Feed (VDF) at the start of 2007. They complement the existing company codes (e.g. D-U-N-S Numbers, Danish CVR numbers, Moody's Institution Identifiers, Fitch Issuer IDs and British and French registered company codes) and represent another key data component for the identification of companies in VDF.

TRANSAT 6.50 READERS QUIZ

Many *realtime* readers have tested their knowledge of Transat 6.50. The editorial board have chosen the following winners from among the numerous correct answers:

- Francisco Lucar from Royal Bank of Canada (Suisse), Geneva
- Jürg Mühlethaler from Centrum Bank AG, Vaduz
- Nadia Hauf from Telekurs Financial

So congratulations once again on behalf of Jacques Valente and the *realtime* editorial team!

TRANSAT 6.50: FIRST AND LAST STOP MADEIRA

The 16th Transat 6.50 single-handed regatta from Charente-Maritime to Bahia 2007 started from the French port of La Rochelle on 18 September 2007. Of the 130-plus skippers who registered for the race, 89 started out on the transatlantic crossing. With maximum wind speeds of 30 knots, Jacques Valente, skippering “Telekurs Twing”, successfully reached Madeira, the first leg of the regatta. For temporary health reasons, however, this experienced sailor decided in accordance with the official regatta physician to drop out of the competition. In the Transat 6.50 four years ago, Valente had completed the crossing to Brazil.

