



**VALUATION & RISK 2009 – LONDON CONFERENCE PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR USERS AND VENDORS TO DISCUSS LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND INITIATIVES**

London, May 2009 – The inaugural Valuation & Risk 2009 conference was held in The Brewery in London on Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup> 2009. Organised by Ian Blance Consulting (IBC), this is the first in a series of major international conferences on independent valuation, transparency and risk modelling intended to review the latest issues in this critical field and showcase the latest developments from the key data and analytics vendors. In one location and on one day, valuations users, advisers and regulators were able to hear from the key providers operating in this important area of the financial system, and view many of the product and service offerings in the attached exhibit.

Over 100 senior valuation and risk professionals from the UK and Ireland financial community heard from data, analytics and models providers operating in this area in a series of panel sessions. Panels were moderated by Alpha FMC, A-Team Group, BNY Mellon, ISC, Northern Trust and Principia Partners and were composed of a comprehensive list of the key vendors, including Bloomberg, Euro MTS, GFI, ICAP, Interactive Data, Julius Finance, Lewtan, Markit, NYSE Euronext Prime Source, Pricing Partners, Prism Valuation, Quantifi, SIX Telekurs, Standard & Poors, SunGard Reech, Thomson Reuters, Tradeweb, Tullett Prebon and Xtrakter.

The Keynote Address was given by Chris Thorne, Chairman of the International Valuation Standards Board. Chris reviewed the varied, often confusing and frequently contradictory rules, standards and guidelines that currently govern valuation, and outlined the efforts that his institution are taking to help bring some clarity and agreed best practice to this.

In addition, Stephen Choate, CEO of ValueLink presented on the operational risks associated with multiple and often manual pricing processes and how automation of this can help to reduce costs and risks.

Ian Blance, Principal of IBC said “We believe that transparent valuation is one of the most critical, but least understood issues facing the international system today. There have been a number of high profile bank and fund losses and failures in recent years that are directly attributable to the mis-valuation of assets - deliberate or mistaken. It can be strongly argued that the lack of transparent valuation, and therefore the assessment of the true risk of many financial products, led inevitably to the sub-prime mortgage crisis, one of the key catalysts of today’s global recession.”

Similar events are being planned for Paris, Luxembourg, Frankfurt, New York and Hong Kong in the coming year.

**About Ian Blance Consulting**

IBC is an independent practice specialising in financial asset valuations and associated analytics and risk. IBC works with a number of clients in the asset valuations area, from users, advisers and regulators through to vendors. IBC provides analysis, research and advice in a range of critical areas including user best practice and process, regulation and compliance and valuation and analytic vendor options.

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