Editorial

Kevin M Rogers

Ten years on from the arrival of the Internet as we know it today, e-commerce is still evolving in all manner of ways. The ‘dotcom boom and bust’ of 2000 stung consumers and investors alike and in many ways slowed the growth of the online market. This trend appears to have turned, with the Daily Telegraph reporting that in the second quarter of 2005 businesses continued to see rising profits, particularly for Internet retailers, who have seen profits similar to those pre-the dotcom crash.

The increase in profits is due in part to the increased value of online advertising, which some believe will pass £1bn in 2005, but also to the growth of online activity worldwide, and it is suggested that this is still in embryonic form. China, for instance has 100m people connected to the Internet, which makes them second in the international league table for Internet use by nations. The Chinese population is around 1.3bn, therefore there is still a vast amount of online growth to be done in that country.

It was with partly the growth of e-commerce in mind that the Hertfordshire Law Journal was established in 2002 within the Centre for International Law (based at the School of Law, St Albans). It seeks to promote awareness, knowledge and discussion on matters of international commercial law and policy in their broadest terms. Although it aims to be academic in focus, the Journal seeks to be relevant and of interest to practitioners and the wider business community. It encourages critical contributions that consider international commercial law in its various contexts, public and private international law, international trade, cyber law (including e-contracts, e-finance, e-crime and data protection) as well as wider commercial concerns.

We invite submissions of articles in these areas for consideration in future editions of this Journal. Submissions should be sent to either myself (K.Rogers@herts.ac.uk), or they can be forwarded to Dr Charles Wild, Head of the School of Law, University of Hertfordshire (C.Wild@herts.ac.uk).

Returning to the current edition, I have pleasure in commending to you the articles written by the winners of the 2005 Student Essay Competition, held within the School of Law. One of the original aims of the Journal was to encourage students in their academic studies and stretch their analytical skills and introduce them to publishing their work. This edition was delayed due to this competition; however I am sure you will acknowledge the high standard of articles that the winners submitted. Nick Cartwright organised the competition for the School of Law and I leave him to introduce the articles.

I trust that this edition will provide a great deal of information to businesses, academics and practitioners alike.

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1 Trefgarne, G Profits are back to the good old dotcom days The Daily Telegraph 5th October 2005.page 34.
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