Taylor Nelson Sofres plc Board Appointment

Contributed by TNS
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The board of Taylor Nelson Sofres plc is pleased to announce that David Lowden, currently Chief Operating Officer, has been appointed to succeed Mike Kirkham as Chief Executive on 1 March 2006.
David Lowden joined the group as Finance Director in 1999 and in 2003 became Chief Operating Officer, with responsibility for the groupâ€™s regional operations across the world.?
He has played a significant part in the development of the group and has taken a leading role in the integration of its major acquisitions.? The board believes that David Lowden has shown considerable ability in operational and strategic management, together with strong leadership skills.? He has demonstrated that he has a thorough understanding of the business and its markets.
As previously announced, Tony Cowling will stand down as Chairman at the end of 2005.? The board has appointed external advisors to assist in the search for a replacement as non-executive Chairman.? Mike Kirkham, who has been Chief Executive since 2001, has accepted the boardâ€™s invitation to become a candidate for this role.? Mike Kirkham had previously indicated to the board that, after five years as Chief Executive, he considered it appropriate to hand on to a successor.?
Tony Cowling, Chairman, said: â€œThe board is delighted that David is moving up to be Chief Executive.? He has clearly demonstrated he has the skills and experience for the role and we are of the view that he is the right person to lead the company through the next stage of its development.? We believe that, together with the support of the strong operational management across the group, David will provide the leadership, continuity and strategic thinking necessary for the future successful development of TNS.â€•
About David Lowden
David Lowden is 48.? He joined TNS as Finance Director in 1999 and became Chief Operating Officer, with responsibility for the groupâ€™s regional operations, in October 2003.? He previously worked for a number of international companies, including market information company ACNielsen and Federal Express Corporation.
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