

CHARLES CHRISTIAN'S

LEGAL TECHNOLOGY INSIDER

THE SOURCE FOR INDEPENDENT LEGAL TECHNOLOGY NEWS, COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

ASIA PACIFIC BECKONS FOR SOLICITEC

Leeds-based Solicitec has secured its first major order from the Asia Pacific region for its Solcase case management software. The order was placed by Rajah & Tann in Singapore and the firm is part of the Andersen Legal worldwide law firm network.

Staying in Singapore, Solicitec is also working on a novel ASP (application service provider) project designed to provide local law firms with a legal services portal. Along with offering its own clients a web interface for supplying new instructions, Solicitec's customer WWLegal plans to offer other firms access to case management facilities by letting them use the software for a relatively low monthly charge. The Insider understands Solicitec is also close to finalising its first case management deal in Australia.

OYEZ - STAT PLUS TAKEOVER DEADLINE LOOMS

The proposed takeover by OyezStraker of the rival Stat Plus group - a deal that would create a near monopoly in the UK legal forms and stationery market - is now just 24 hours away from the Office of Fair Trading's closing date for representations.

The OFT is currently considering whether the acquisition qualifies for investigation under the merger provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973. If it does - and the deal would also have an impact on the electronic legal forms market where OyezForms are in direct competition with the Laserform range sold by Stat Plus - the Director General of Fair Trading has the power to recommend a full investigation by the Competition Commission.

Anyone with views on the competition or public interest implications of the takeover should fax their views to Matthew Ward at the OFT (020 7211 8916) by no later than Thursday 9 November.

OZ DEAL BIGGEST THIS YEAR ?

One of Australia's largest firms, Minter Ellison, has reversed a decision taken as recently as this August to implement CMS Open as the firm's nationwide practice management system. Instead the firm has now decided to roll out the rival Keystone PMS solution to its seven offices. Here on the Insider we reckon this is the single largest legal IT order any supplier has won so far this year.

GEARING UP FOR E-CONVEYANCING

With the English property market edging towards an e-conveyancing environment via seller's packs, digital signatures, the NLIS National Land Information Service and direct access to the Land Registry, the Property Search Agency has launched a web site providing an online form and information resource for all professionals involved in the property industry. The forum is at

<http://thepropertyforum.net>

Also gearing up for the e-conveyancing revolution is Leeds law firm Fox Hayes, which has just established a specialist conveyancing arm Fox Hayes Property Transfer. The department is currently rolling out new Axxia case management software to support its activities.

■ Since Part II of the Environmental Protection Act 1995 came into force in April, the environmental search has become an increasingly important part of the conveyancing process - not least because it exposes lawyers to the risk of a negligence claim if they miss a key fact, such as a client buying contaminated land. Homecheck Professional is a new service offering reports, backed up by professional indemnity insurance, on environmental issues, land use, radon, subsidence and other natural perils. Reports costs £20 and are supplied in a PDF file format as an email attachment.

www.homecheckpro.co.uk

LEGAL TECHNOLOGY Online

www.legaltechnology.org

Visit the Legal Technology Online site for regularly updated news, a diary of legal IT events, web bookmarks, the latest hoax and virus reports, an archive of back issues of the Insider, extensive search facilities plus portal links to the LSSA Solution Finder, UKLIT and ILCA sites.

DPS OPTS FOR CITRIX TO GET ON THE WEB

DPS Software has announced plans to use Citrix MetaFrame/thin client technology to deliver the new DPS Progress case management systems across the web on an ASP (application service provider) business model.

DPS is not alone in following the Citrix route - other suppliers investigating this approach include Select Legal Systems, Thompson Moore and Timeslice - however industry opinion seems split over the respective merits of thin client versus web browser.

Although Citrix offers a relatively quick and easy approach to web-enabling conventional Windows applications, particularly when compared with developing interactive applications from scratch in HTML, its critics say the HTML browser option is easier to use, does not require such complex server architecture and is far cheaper because it avoids the need for MetaFrame users licences.

INTERACTION IN XML MOVE

Interface Software, the developer on the InterAction client relationship management system, has just announced a new knowledge management product. Called the Interface Relationship Intelligence Server, or IRIS, this is an XML application server that provides a common platform for all internal information about a law firm's clients, contacts, relationships, expertise and experience. Interface president Nathan Fineberg says it can be used to collect data from a range of applications, including billing, for access over an intranet. IRIS will be available in the UK in Q2, 2001.

■ Interface is currently recruiting for a London-based, pre-sales technology consultant to work with prospective customers on CRM and knowledge management projects within the UK and Europe. For details email:

MGrossbach@InterfaceSoftware.com

WORDPERFECT AND UNIX ERA ENDS IN THE UNITED STATES

The WordPerfect era is over. Official. According to the latest edition of the US legal magazine *AmLaw Tech*, the last stronghold of WordPerfect users in the American Lawyer top 100 US law firms - Hale & Dorr in Boston - has switched to Microsoft Word as its wordprocessing platform.

The firm has also dropped Unix in favour of a Windows NT client/server architecture. This was primarily because "Unix was a world without Word" - and so many of the firm's clients were now using Word - but also because most modern office automation and legal software applications are not available on Unix.

According to the most recent *AmLaw Tech* survey, Word now has a 77 percent and growing share of the legal wordprocessing market.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ iMANAGE DISAPPOINTS

iManage, the document and content management software supplier that has been giving PC Docs a run for its money in the legal systems market, reported a net loss of \$4.4 million, as revenues fell below the company's expectations for its third trading quarter which ended on 30 September. Blaming a greater than expected "seasonality" and a lengthening sales cycle, company president and CEO Max Panjwani admitted the results were "disappointing".

Talking of disappointing sales, US law firm Wilmer Cutler & Pickering recently dropped plans to install a new third party document management system, such as iManage or DOCS, and opted instead to develop its own DMS solution based on the document management tools available within the Windows 2000 operating system and related Microsoft products, including Site Server.

■ NEW HOME FOR G3

Litigation support and knowledge management specialists G3 Consulting have moved to new offices at 127 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 1PP. The new phone number is 020 7787 2740. G3 recently became the UK distributor for the Ringtail Casebook system.

www.g3consulting.co.uk

■ RAMESYS IN DOCUMENTUM DEAL

Legal IT supplier Ramesys, previously The Data Base, has signed a partnership agreement with Documentum that will see Ramesys offering Documentum-based document and knowledge management systems to medium-to-large sized law firms. To-date the only UK law firm to have implemented Documentum on a large scale is Linklaters.

■ TIMESLICE IN LAWMAN DEAL

Legal systems supplier Timeslice has won an order for its new Lawman 2000 practice management system from Sussex firm Stevens Drake. Data conversion work has already commenced at the firm. Meanwhile Timeslice is in talks with a number of other legal systems suppliers about possible "best of breed" integration projects.

LEGAL MARKET NEWCOMER RECEIVES VC FUNDING

Recently formed legal systems supplier Acumen Business Solutions (0207 486 4956) has received £200,000 in venture capital funding from Oxford Technology 2 VCT to support the development of its new Aware file tracking document management system. Aware is designed to deal with hard copy documents, using bar coded labels and RFID electronic tags to index, track and retrieve documents. Acumen is currently looking for partners to promote, sell and support the system.

■ Well known litigation support and document management specialist Valid Information Systems will now incorporate Smartlogik's search and indexing technology in the newest versions of its R/KYV system. R/KYV legal market users include the Serious Fraud Office.

www.acumenaware.com

SOS ANSWERS LSC WITH XML

In our second XML story this week, law firms using the Practice Manager accounts system from SOS will be amongst the first in the UK to be able to submit their controlled matter reports to the Legal Services Commission (previously the Legal Aid Board) electronically via an XML messaging link SOS has developed within the software.

In common with a growing number of legal systems suppliers, SOS is also moving into the "best of breed" market - but with an important difference as the company is planning to offer its accounts software as a core product other vendors can base their own systems around. SOS sales director David McNamara said a comparable analogy is with the OEM printer and PC market, where numerous suppliers "badge" third party products with their own name. McNamara believes the new approach will prove popular with those suppliers "whose own systems have perhaps fallen behind, or where the cost of continual development is becoming too great a burden". For details call 01225 787700 or email d.mcnamara@sosbath.co.uk

■ SOS has won a £200,000 contract to supply its Practice Manager accounts and SolCase case management software to five-branch Lancashire firm Farleys. The contract is for a 150-user system to replace the firm's present Avenue system.

SCOTS GET AXXIA USER GROUP

Users of Axxia software in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic now have their own dedicated user group. The first chairman of the group is Ian Thomson of Morton Fraser in Edinburgh (0131 247 1038) or email:

IT1@morton-fraser.com

■ Farrer & Co chief executive Andrew Mills-Baker is the new chairman of the national Axxia Systems user group after former chairman Chris Cowling stepped down following the Hammond Suddards/Edge Ellison merger.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ VIDESS IS ONE IN EIGHT

Fast growing Leeds law firm Ison Harrison whittled down a field of eight vendors to select Videss as the supplier of its new case and practice management system. Managing partner Beverley Coates said factors that helped Videss win the deal included a demonstration of clients being able to access live management information through an extranet and the option of running thin client links between the firm's six offices.

■ BUCKING THE TREND

Not all legal IT suppliers are being hit by the mini recession currently running through the market. JM Computing reports legal sector contract wins worth over £250,000 during September. All arose from sales of Mountain's case and practice management software. AIM Professional's sales & marketing director Steve Broadley says the company has secured orders for six Evolution Client/Server installations in the last six weeks. The total value of the deals, which will see the systems running on over 600 desktops, is approximately £1 million. And MSS is celebrating the 200th sale of its AlphaLAW-esprit low cost accounts and time recording system for small firms - the order was placed by Keogh Caisley in Tunbridge Wells.

■ SAYER GETS CASE BRIEF

Axxia Systems has appointed Nicky Sayer as head of its CaseBrief shrink wrapped case management products division. Sayer joins from Laserform.

■ SRT GO FOR ELITE

Shipping law specialists Sinclair Roche & Temperley has chosen Elite as the supplier of its new practice management system. The firm will be using Elite's WebView internet access module to provide access for SRT staff working in remote offices.

At its recent Florida user conference Elite announced two new modules: Ask Elite - a web based knowledge portal that allows users to search unstructured data using plain English queries and a digital dashboard that allows users to view Elite from within Microsoft Outlook.

MAKING THE CASE FOR CASE - BUT NOT ASP ?

What a difference nine months can make. When the organisers of the Legal IT Forum began drawing up the programme for last month's event, **virtual dealrooms** were a hot, leading edge topic but in the intervening period they have moved so far into the mainstream that they are on the verge of becoming a commodity. In fact the latest version of the iManage content management product offers what is effectively a virtual dealroom-in-a-box system.

In his presentation at Gleneagles, Nick Taylor-Delahoy of Allen & Overy had no doubts that the firm's Newchange dealroom had given it a competitive advantage and was more than just a marketing gimmick, having now been used in over 450 transactions - some involving as many as 14 parties and 77 individuals. Certainly the view we picked up from delegates was that within 18 months virtual dealrooms will have become the new email - a standard tool of the trade for any serious commercial law practice.

But if dealroom stocks are rising, the same cannot be said for the **application service provider** concept, with the mood at Gleneagles suggesting that both law firms and IT suppliers are having second thoughts. As in the United States, lawyers are worried about the perceived security risks and the practicalities of the delivery mechanism. It is also quite clear some suppliers are having doubts about the commercial viability of the ASP business model. Not least because law firms are assuming they will be able to rent applications on a low cost, ad hoc basis whereas the £200 to £300 per seat, per month (for a minimum of three years) charges would-be ASPs have in mind are actually more than the cost of buying many new systems outright.

This time last year the ASP model was being promoted as "the next big thing" but it now looks as if ASP may be a concept whose time has already come and gone.

One session that struck a sympathetic note was when Eversheds partner Kevin Doolan admitted that not only was computerised **case management** inappropriate for some types of work but that many of the assumptions made about the technology were wrong. Far from being a universal panacea, said Doolan, in many instances all firms were achieving with case management was to swap old labour intensive and complex manual processes for new labour intensive and complex computerised processes.

Doolan said another lesson firms would do well to note is that far from improving productivity a new case system will initially "destroy productivity" as the firm goes through the trials and tribulations of training staff and dealing with the inevitable software bugs.

As for the cost, Doolan admitted the software was not cheap but said this needed to be seen in the context of a market where UK lawyers currently spend ten times as much on accounts and practice management systems as they do on case management. In other words, firms would still rather count the beans than make them.

GLEN LEGAL UNCOVERED

Inevitably prodigious volumes of alcohol were consumed at last month's Legal IT Forum (one delegate was spotted still in his DJ from the previous evening's ball as the audience gathered for the first of the following day's seminars) but what else happened at the Gleneagles event?

The general verdict was the quality of speakers was much better this year, with all restraining themselves from turning their presentations into blatant product plugs. But there were mutterings that some topics - particularly online legal services and knowledge management - were starting to sound a little bit samey.

The ample opportunities to network in a relaxed environment was once again a popular feature of the event - a number of law firm delegates commenting favourably on the value of being able to exchange stories and experiences with firms of different size and type, as they often faced the same problems but were tackling them from a different angle.

Most of the suppliers present took maximum advantage of the event's many marketing opportunities - Westlaw UK's Resolve tablets for the morning after were a nice touch - but you were left wondering if some of the sponsors should have brushed-up their marketing techniques before getting involved with this event.

Were there too many suppliers and sponsors present? Some suppliers were certainly complaining to us that there were not enough delegates to go around. From the attendance list of 230, nearly half were suppliers, sponsors, organisers, exhibitors or speakers. On the other hand, bearing in mind Gleneagles is one of the most expensive locations on the planet, without the sponsors the event would not have been commercially viable, especially as the hotel rates needed to be subsidised to keep them at a reasonable level for delegates.

True, there were complaints that making people listen to Scottish folk music was a contravention of the Human Rights Act. But at least there was none of the unpleasantness seen at a recent golf tournament, where the director of a well known legal IT supplier wound up punching one of his guests on the nose!

CITY FIRMS GET THE ONLINE SERVICE HABIT

Last month saw a number of City of London law firms announce new intranet and extranet initiatives.

Lovells has launched what is believed to be the market's first free online arbitration agreement drafting aid. This is a dedicated web site combining guidance, information and tools for drafting arbitration agreements for inclusion in international commercial contracts. The firm says the service was developed in line with Lovell's "e-client services philosophy" which treats online services as an integral part of the overall client package, rather than as a stand alone activity - although in this case anyone, including non-clients, can use the service.

www.lovells.com/Arbitration

Lovell's strategy is in contrast to **Clifford Chance** which has just spent a "seven figure sum" expanding its NextLaw service. There are now five "channels", each offering frequently updated guidance on key legal and regulatory risks in multiple jurisdictions. The channels are: online contracts, electronic signatures, encryption, privacy & data protection and bank secrecy.

A subscription is in the region of £2000 per channel, per jurisdiction, per year. But, while this is certainly cheaper than using the firm's conventional services to handle the same work, it does appear the firm is guilty of anticipating the market. In fact IT partner Christopher Millard admitted at the recent Gleneagles conference that the expansion of the NextLaw service had been driven primarily by internal forces rather than in response to specific client demands.

Turning to other forms of direct access, **D J Freeman** has announced that in a move to offer "total fee transparency," it is to allow clients online access to raw data from time recordings by individual fee earners, so they can monitor the performance and billing criteria at all stages of the instruction via the internet. The firm runs Keystone PMS software, which supports a web interface.

And, following extensive pilot testing with a group of 50 fee earners and secretaries this summer, **Rowe & Maw** this month began rolling out a new knowledge management system. What is unusual about this development is that it is the first time any large UK law firm has attempted to implement a knowledge management system on a practice wide basis.

The system, called KnowMaw, was developed in conjunction with legal systems integrators Tikit and is based around Hummingbird's PC Docs Fulcrum document and knowledge management software. It uses standard web browser technology and allows staff to simultaneously search a whole range of different information sources from a single screen whereas previously they had to search each source separately. Phase two of the project is to integrate KnowMaw with Hummingbird's EIP portal so access can also be offered to clients via an extranet.

LEGAL TECHNOLOGY EVENTS DIARY

■ **NOVEMBER 14, BRISTOL.** Legal IT Seminars. The first of Sanderson IT Systems' autumn seminars showcasing new developments with its Galaxy case and practice management system plus unified messaging, which manages email and voice messages via a single source. Insider editor Charles Christian is the guest speaker. The Bristol event takes place at the Swallow Royal Hotel, with subsequent seminars in Birmingham (16 November), Leeds (21 November) and London (29 November). Admission free. For details email:

marketing@sanderson.com

■ **NOVEMBER 15, EDINBURGH.** Pilgrim Systems Case Management & Online Strategy Seminars. The first of Pilgrim Systems' seminars looking at the new LawSoft Version 3, developments in case management and workflow software. The guest speaker is Baker Robbins consultant Andrew Levison. Each seminar lasts two hours, with morning and afternoon sessions. The Edinburgh event is at the Sheraton Hotel, with subsequent seminars in London (21 November), Leeds (5 December), Manchester (6 December) and Birmingham (13 December). Admission free. Call 0131 555 9700 or email:

sales@pilgrimsystems.com

■ **NOVEMBER 24, HARROGATE, YORKS.** Running a PI Practice. One day conference organised by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) at the Majestic Hotel looking at IT, marketing, business management, the internet and current funding issues. Fees from £165 + VAT. The event qualifies for 6 CPD hours. For details call APIL on 0115 958 0585.

■ **DECEMBER 7 & 8, LONDON.** Successful E-Legal Services - optimising your web site and developing a fully interactive online legal service. Two day conference plus one day pre-conference workshop at the Hilton St Ermins Hotel. Fees from £1099 + VAT. For details call IQPC on 020 7368 9300.

www.iqpc.co.uk

BUTTERWORTHS AIM FOR A MARKET EDGE

As competition hots up in the legal publishing sector with both Sweet & Maxwell/Westlaw and LAWTEL rolling out fresh initiatives on a regular basis, last week Butterworths sought to regain a market edge when its new web-based current awareness service - LawDirect - went live.

What sets the service apart is that it is completely free. There are no limits on usage or requirements to subscribe to the company's other products. The one qualification is the service only provides a digest of the latest legal, parliamentary and professional news - including EU developments, statutory instruments, official press releases and similar "grey" papers in an archive going back to 1995 - but that is all that many lawyers, as distinct from law librarians, are looking for.

Should you need more, then there are extensive hypertext links to Butterworths' subscription based online services. LawDirect also offers some interesting extras, such as customisable email updates direct to the desktop to alert users to new developments and an "is it in force?" facility for monitoring the progress of legislation and subsequent commencement dates - again all free of charge.

The official party line is because so much of the free legal information on the web is of dubious accuracy and reliability, Butterworths is doing the profession a service by offering it from an authoritative source. True enough but LawDirect is also a clever marketing ploy to differentiate Butterworths from the competition. In particular, the free In Context CPD facility - users can qualify for up to 75 percent of their annual CPD points quota if they complete the correct answers to the multiple choice questions - is likely to win over many users who would have previously never even considered logging on to a legal web site.

We saw the *Solicitors Journal* jaw drop when Ivan Darby of Butterworths announced the CPD facility at LawDirect's official launch and we suspect some of the other features will turn Westlaw's blue haired ladies green with envy.

www.butterworths.com

CLIENT CARE ON THE WEB

Solicitors in England & Wales can now access a copy of *Keeping Clients - a Client Care Guide for Solicitors*, the OSS guidance on client relations, via the Law Society web site.

www.clientcare.lawsociety.org.uk

MANAGE THAT WEB PORTFOLIO

DomainAudit (020 7659 9450) is a new service offering a domain name protection and portfolio management service for law firms and similar organisations needing to keep track of domain names for themselves and their clients.

Along with all the usual domain registration services, DomainAudit can offer

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WEB NEWS IN BRIEF

■ ONLINE CPD NOW

CPD Direct, the online continuing professional education joint venture between Semple Piggot Rochez and Butterworths is now up and running for practitioners who want to decide when and where they do their CPD work. Thirty courses in evidence, civil and criminal litigation are available now, with a further 100 courses across a broad range of practice areas available by January, rising to a total of 170 by Easter 2001.

Courses cost from £150 and deliver material in the form of downloadable audio and PDF files. In addition, users are given free access to all Butterworths online services for 14 days, so they can undertake detailed research.

www.cpd-direct.com

■ SAFE FROM PRYING EYES

A new service for people concerned their web surfing activities are being monitored or who want to avoid being plagued by advertisers' cookies is SafeWeb. To use it, you first log on to the SafeWeb site and then select the sites you want to visit. Because the service uses encryption technology, any attempt to either track your ultimate destination or follow you back to your desktop gets no further than the SafeWeb site. The service is already in use in the USA.

www.safeweb.com

■ DEALING WITH INSOLVENCY

Bevan Ashford has a new fixed fee service offering companies and directors advice on insolvency and disqualification issues.

www.bevan-ashford.co.uk/insolvency/

INTERESTED IN IT ?

If you run a law firm IT department, sell legal systems or are just plain interested in the issues surrounding the use of legal technology, you can link through to the UK Legal IT online discussion forum directly from the Insider web site. Recent UKLIT discussions have included speech recognition systems, selecting a good scanner and whether to migrate from NT to Windows 2000. There is no charge for accessing the forum.

www.legaltechnology.org

continued from page 6 comprehensive audit reports telling you which names you own and which names you don't, as well as who owns them. Users can also set up portfolio management folders, to consolidate and store all information relating to a particular client's domain names and web IP assets, to make it easier to handle routine management tasks such as renewals and registrations.

Prices for DomainAudit, which is a web based service, start at £50 for setting up a portfolio, through to £500 for a full audit report. Co-founder Derek Everitt says the service has been extensively piloted by a number of lawyers and is particularly suitable for firms with a large new media practice, as they can use the system to help provide a value-added proactive domain name management service for their clients. The system, incidentally, can also be configured to produce billing information so the service can be recharged to the client.

www.domainaudit.com

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Privacy policy: We do not sell or disclose the names, addresses or other contact details of our subscribers to anyone. We are registered under the Data Protection Act 1998.

PILGRIM READIES FOR SPRING IPO LIFT OFF

Edinburgh-based Pilgrim Systems is now expected to float and seek a quotation on the London Stock Exchange main market in March/April 2001. As part of the build up to the IPO, the company has been fine-tuning both its management structure and product strategy.

On the people front, the main change is the promotion of Benny Placido from sales director to chief operating officer. However it is worth noting that despite recently becoming a non-executive director of Aberdeen Football Club, Pilgrim founder and chairman Jim Cummings remains fully committed to the business and has no plans to leave the company.

Turning to technology, Pilgrim is positioning itself as a second-generation Windows systems supplier with a strong focus upon "best of breed" solutions, including a genuine commitment to collaborate with other legal systems vendors. Along with integration projects with all the leading document management products, including PC DOCS, iManage and even Documentum, in a brave move for this market Pilgrim has also unbundled its core LawSoft product so it can work with erstwhile rival suppliers of practice and case/workflow management systems - Solicitec is believed to be one of its case partners.

The company has also launched Release 3.0 of LawSoft, which includes a web browser interface and full support for Euro and multi-currency transactions. A Microsoft Outlook front end, currently undergoing beta testing at Dickinson Dees in Newcastle, is planned for spring 2001.

COMPETITION CORNER

Sweet & Maxwell is running a competition to promote the latest edition of *Stroud's Judicial Dictionary of Words & Phrases* - the prize is a copy of Stroud on CD-Rom worth £495. The challenge is to work out which of the following phrases have been ruled defamatory and which have not. The four phrases are: calling a justice of the peace "a fool, an ass and a beetle-headed Justice", writing that someone is a "Man Friday", writing that a lawyer is a "pettifogging shyster" and calling a doctor a "quack", "quack salver", "empiric" or "mountebank". The challenge can be found on the web and the closing date for entries is 30 November.

www.sweetandmaxwell.co.uk/stroud

SCL AWARD - 10 DAYS TO GO

There are now just ten days to go until the closing date, on 17 November, for entries for the Society for Computers & Law's annual award for the "most outstanding application of IT to the law". The award is open to both UK and Irish entrants and an online nomination form is available on the SCL web site.

www.scl.org/award

BREAKING NEWS

■ IRISH OFFER SOLACE

Solace, one of the UK's oldest legal systems vendors - the company originally traded as Stukeley - has been bought by the Irish software supplier Opsis. Solace, which has always been strong on the accounts front, should make a good match for Opsis, which is best known for its Solicitor case management product. David Riggall, who previously ran the R&B independent IT consultancy in York, has been brought in by Opsis to help run the Solace operation.

■ WOOLF NOT AT THE DOOR

Following recent press reports that the case management systems needed to support the new "Woolf" Civil Procedure Rules might not be fully up and running until the year 2010 - over a decade after the CPR came into effect in April 1999 - the Lord Chancellor's Department has issued a more optimistic statement saying the civil courts system is moving towards electronic filing (e-filing) and the provision of other services electronically in line with the British government's year 2005 "information age" initiatives.

■ SOLUTION SIX COULD SELL CMS

Solution 6 Holdings, the parent group of legal systems vendor CMS Data, has downgraded its revenue targets for the current trading year and warned that it may now make a loss of \$16 million. The company had previously predicted a profit of \$40 million. Solution 6 is also reviewing business units operating at a loss, has embarked on a restructuring exercise to reduce costs and focus on "existing core businesses", placed its application service provider (ASP) strategy under new management and says "certain businesses within the group are being considered for divestment".

THE NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Legal Technology Insider - No. 110 - will be published on Wednesday 22 November. Until then, keep up with the latest news reports with Legal Technology News.com, available both on the web and via email.

www.legaltechnology.org