



**InfoScreen CH 12-2005  
Summary  
of  
Articles and Filings**

**Altria Group**

*Altria Group's operating company Philip Morris International and China National Tobacco Corporation will establish an international equity joint venture based in Lausanne in the first half of 2006.*

Following its establishment, this joint venture company will offer consumers a comprehensive portfolio of Chinese heritage brands globally, expand the export of tobacco products and tobacco materials from China, and explore other business development opportunities. The joint venture company will utilize both CNTC's and PMI's extensive sales and distribution infrastructure, financial resources and management experiences to develop business opportunities worldwide. It is expected by the parties that the sale of Chinese style brands in selected international markets through the joint venture company will commence in the first half of 2006.

**Vestar Capital Partners**

*Vestar Capital Partners buys Swiss company Nybron Flooring International for estimated \$530 million in 12/2005.*

Vestar says it is entering the capital of Nybron with a long-term investment horizon and will provide the existing management team with substantial capital resources to back the company's growth plans. These plans include international expansion in the U.S. and elsewhere and could include acquisitions, as well.

**CPL Technologies**

*CPL Technologies acquires 25% stake in Geneva company Craylog SA.*

CPL Technologies Inc. has signed a partnership agreement with a Geneva company, Craylog SA, and acquired a participation in it. The company has purchased 25 per cent of the common shares of Craylog SA for a total consideration of 50,000 Swiss francs. The company commits itself during the next year to invest 200,000 Swiss francs in the marketing of the C2Enterprise solution in the European markets. The company also signed an exclusive distribution agreement with Craylog for the France, Swiss and



Germany markets. Included in the agreement, Craylog SA will change its name to CPL Europe SA.

### **NICE Systems**

*NICE Systems has decided to acquire FAST Video Security AG; deal expected to close in early 2006*

NICE expects substantial growth opportunities to result from its recent decision to acquire FAST Video Security AG, a Swiss-based developer of innovative video systems for security and surveillance purposes. The combined NICE and FAST portfolio will provide an extended offering of video products and solutions covering the entire digital video spectrum of video transmission/networking, recording, management, real-time detection, and post recording analysis. NICE's acquisition of FAST is subject to the satisfaction of customary closing conditions and is anticipated to close in early 2006.

### **Key Equipment Finance**

*Key Equipment Finance partners with UBS Leasing in strategic partnership.*

Alliance between Key Equipment Finance and UBS Leasing enables to provide an expanded range of products and services to meet the equipment leasing needs of mid- to large-sized businesses throughout Switzerland.

### **Tally-Ho Ventures**

*Tally-Ho Ventures, Inc. has announced an agreement to buy Protrust Private Clients SA, a Swiss private-client manager, for up to \$8 million.*

### **Calypso Wireless**

*Calypso Wireless has entered into an agreement to acquire Sleipner, S.A.*

Effective October 10, 2005, Calypso Wireless entered into an agreement to acquire 100% of the capital stock of Sleipner, S.A. by issuing 1,500,000 shares of Calypso's restricted common stock. Sleipner is a company organized and existing under the laws of Switzerland and doing business in the Republic of Italy. As of December 9, 2005, the shares have not been issued.

**Autodesk**

*Autodesk acquired c-plan AG for \$24.1 million in 6/2005.*

Autodesk intends to incorporate c-plan's family of geospatial applications and data management solutions into its Infrastructure Lifecycle Management solution offerings.

**Novell**

*Novell expands Swiss operations through major Linux agreement with Swiss Government; More than 3,000 servers across Switzerland to run Novell's SUSE Linux.*

Novell was selected following a formal tender process during which the company conclusively demonstrated it can provide the strongest Linux solution for public sector environments. As a result, more than 3,000 servers operated by the Swiss Federal Government will now run on Novell's SUSE Linux platform. Linux has been gradually introduced into various government departments in recent years, but this is the first formalized procurement process regarding the introduction of Linux at a federal level.