

SMP Partners enhances its e-gaming and e-commerce service offering with the purchase of the Amber Group.

On the 6th April 2010, SMP Partners Group acquired the Amber Group of Companies, a corporate and trust services provider that is widely recognised as the Island's leading consulting and solutions provider for the e-gaming sector. Whilst the Amber Group companies will become fully owned subsidiaries within the SMP Partners Group, the Amber brand will be retained.

Amber, a well established trust and corporate services provider, has been a major driving force on the Island in the development of the e-gaming sector and has been highly influential in shaping what is now one of the Island's fastest growing sectors.

The SMP Partners Group, one of the Isle of Man's leading professional services companies now employs over one hundred and forty people in their Isle of Man office. With roots stretching back to 1980, the Group companies offer corporate and trust services, accounting and tax, fund administration and capital market related services. Independently owned by its Directors, the Group was established following a management buy out in June 2007.

As a joining together of two of the Island's major corporate services businesses, this acquisition demonstrates the ambition of SMP Partners and represents a significant step forward for the Group in the development of its already significant focus on the e-gaming and e-commerce sector.

Commenting on the acquisition, Steve McGowan, Chairman of the SMP Partners Group said:

"I am very pleased to announce this transaction as it fits perfectly within our strategy for the growth and development of the Group. Some time ago we recognised the significant potential for companies and entrepreneurs to develop their business on-line and the Isle of Man has certainly become a world class location to host such growth and demand. Over the last twelve months we have significantly raised our profile in this sector and the addition of Amber and their team will greatly enhance our e-business credentials and service offering and bring very significant benefit and value to our clients and future clients.

The strategy behind this transaction is to extend the position of Amber as the Isle of Man's leading e-gaming and e-commerce firm by consolidating the core strengths of the two brands. It is a highly successful business with a dedicated, highly professional and knowledgeable team. Add to that the expertise across our expanded Group and we create an unrivalled suite of e-gaming and e-commerce related professional services – from specialist advice, tax and VAT consultancy, corporate services and provision of officers right through the licence application process to ongoing administration, accounting and book-keeping – all delivered seamlessly under one roof. In summary, our dedicated e-gaming and e-commerce team is now uniquely positioned to offer the most knowledgeable and comprehensive service available."

John Webster, Director of Amber commented, "We are delighted to have concluded a deal with our friends at SMP Partners which we consider will create the Isle of Man's leading provider of e-gaming, e-business and fiduciary services. I am pleased to have been invited to remain on Amber's Board and look forward to working with Steve and his colleagues."

For further information contact:

Steve McGowan, Chairman, SMP Partners Group
Email: steve.mcgowan@smppartners.com

Tel: 01624 683229