

Joint Press Release – for immediate release, Monday June 7th, 2004.

HouseMark and Max.net partner to release ‘live real-time’ performance benchmarking

Harrogate, Housing 2004, June 16, 2004

From 1 July, HouseMark’s highly regarded Quarterly PI Tracking benchmarking service will be available live on the internet thanks to a new partnership with European IT specialists Max.net.

The Quarterly PI Tracking service is the only ‘real time’ benchmarking tool available to the UK sector and is used by hundreds of organisations to provide an ‘early warning’ of trends in key performance areas.

Now, for the first time, organisations can create and update reports themselves online whenever they have new data to input or to meet any Board, Committee or stakeholder reporting timetable. The result will be that housing organisations will be able to make sound business judgments based on up-to-the-minute data.

This breakthrough in speed and accessibility has been possible through a partnership with Max.net, which has extended to the web its proven reporting and benchmarking platform which is compliant with Microsoft’s emerging .Net web application strategy. “Housing organisations can’t wait for the belated publication of data by regulators to monitor performance against their peers. The sooner any downward trends are spotted the sooner they can be fixed. Thanks to Max.net, our successful quarterly benchmarking service can now be interrogated ‘live’ by our 420 subscribing organisations” said Ross Fraser, HouseMark Chief Executive.

“We explored a range of alternatives to deliver an improved web-based facility and concluded that the Max.net platform was the best by far. By partnering with Max.net, we have added a very powerful and flexible reporting tool to HouseMark’s range of benchmarking services.”

“As we are a new entrant to the UK market, HouseMark is an ideal partner for us to prove the capabilities of Max.net,” said Brendan Dunphy, Business Development Director of newly formed Max.net (UK) Ltd. As regulatory, social and commercial pressures increase on housing providers, so does their need for better quality and more immediately accessible data. By providing a tailored industry-specific platform to do this we aim to take a leading role in helping the sector achieve its goals.”

Both parties will invest to ensure the success of the relationship and are treating this as the first step in a longer-term partnership that will eventually see Max.net extend the range of benchmarking services available from HouseMark.

For Max.net, the partnership is the first step of its UK RSL market strategy. “HouseMark is an ideal launch-partner. Our goal is to develop a range of web-based products and services that meet the differing reporting needs of all the major players and over 2,000 or so organisations in the UK housing sector. Our relationship with HouseMark enables us to learn more about the sector and its unique challenges and we are using this knowledge to shape and develop our

solutions.” Said Joost Kooman, Technical Development Director of Max.net. “Our approach is collaborative, we don’t have all the answers but we are very keen to share our knowledge and work with others to achieve our joint goals.”

Availability

HouseMark subscribers will be able to access the new service from the 1st July, the beginning of the first quarter of the 2004/5 year.

About Housemark

Housemark is the UK’s leading provider of benchmarking services to the Registered Social Landlord sector. HouseMark is jointly owned by the Chartered Institute of Housing and the National Housing Federation, two not-for-profit organisations. Its purpose is to support continuous improvement in the performance of social housing organisations and to help them respond to the efficiency agenda by offering efficiency tools, benchmarking, good practice and consultancy services.

More information about Housemark is available at www.Housemark.co.uk.

About Max.net

Max.net (UK) Ltd specialises in reporting, query and benchmarking solutions for the Housing sector. More information about Max.net is available at www.max-house.co.uk.

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