

UK COMPANIES OUTSTRIP EUROPEAN COMPETITORS

The largest companies in the United Kingdom continue to out-perform their European competition, with those investing more in research and development or new equipment tending to be more successful, according to UK government business analysts.

The just-published 2007 Value-Added Scoreboard from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shows UK companies dominating the list, with 210 of the 750 biggest wealth creating companies in Europe.

The annual scoreboard measures businesses economic contribution using the difference between sales and the cost of bought-in materials and services – the 'value added'. It uses the value added per one pound sterling of staff and depreciation costs, or 'wealth creation efficiency', as a key performance measure.

Over the last four years, large UK-based companies have had higher profitability, faster value-added growth and higher wealth creation efficiency than their French and German equivalents.

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Alistair Darling, said: "The UK is home to some of the world's best companies and it's a good place to do business. As the recent Budget shows, the Government is backing business and helping the UK to stay on top.



Shining example: Rolls-Royce is one of the UK's big-hitters. Among its major industrial interests Rolls-Royce is a world leader in marine propulsion systems, offering a unique set of products and services to naval and commercial customers.