



For immediate release: Thursday 17th March, 2011

7% HIKE IN A WEEK – SMALL BUSINESSES WARNED OVER COST OF ENERGY

The Japanese crisis and Middle East uncertainty are already having an impact on Britain's small businesses, warns uSwitchforbusiness.com, the independent and impartial energy brokerage for small businesses. Within the last week business energy prices have increased by 7% on average^[1], hitting SMEs seeking a new business energy contract.

As well as prices sneaking upwards, suppliers are also only guaranteeing their prices for a day or two reflecting the level of uncertainty currently being experienced.

James Constant, Director of uSwitchforbusiness.com, says: "Everyone's eyes have been on household energy prices, but Britain's small businesses are already feeling the impact of the current crisis. We have already seen moves across the UK business energy market this week as suppliers rush to pull prices. They are being replaced with prices that are significantly higher and furthermore there is no obvious end to the uncertainty as world events continue to evolve.

"More importantly, prices are moving very quickly. We are literally seeing a price for a day or two before it is being pulled and replaced by a higher one – this shows the level of uncertainty out there.

"The fact is that British business owners face a major risk of an increase in energy costs. Clearly this will have an impact. I would urge owners not to get caught out - locking in now can at least minimise potential future exposure."

For more information visit www.uswitchforbusiness.com or call 0800 051 5343

-Ends-

For more information please contact:

Jo Ganly, uSwitch.com on 0207 802 2915 or joganly@uswitch.com

Beth Murray, Lansons Communications on 0207 566 9728 or bethm@lansons.com

Lisa Grando, Lansons Communications on 0207 294 3669 or lisag@lansons.com

Notes to editors:

1. uSwitchforBusiness data. 7% calculated as average of gas and power 03/04 profile power changes in region 12 (London).

About us

uSwitch.com is a free, impartial, online and telephone-based comparison and switching service, helping consumers compare prices on gas, electricity, water, heating cover, home telephone, broadband, digital television, mobile phones and personal finance products including mortgages, credit cards, current accounts and insurance. In 2010 uSwitch.com celebrated ten years of saving customers money.

The service is also available via fax and post. Consumers should fax 020 7233 5933 or write to Customer Services, uSwitch.com, Centro 3, 19 Mandela Street, London, NW1 0DU,, with their postcode and usage details.

uSwitch.com is owned by Forward Internet Group Limited, a privately funded collection of internet-based businesses focused on consumer engagement and innovation.