



For immediate release: Monday 4th July, 2011

FIRST ONLINE ENERGY PRICE COMPARISON FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

uSwitchforBusiness.com, the independent business energy broker and sister-site of uSwitch.com, has launched the first online energy price comparison service for small businesses. It is the first business energy broker to offer SMEs a similar level of pricing transparency as that enjoyed by consumers.

The online service is available to busy business owners 24 hours a day. They can get a business energy price comparison in a similar way to householders, by entering straightforward information such as their Supply Number and their annual consumption. This will generate a quote which will include details of the deals available from the big six energy suppliers along with other players such as Opus Energy and First Utility.

Unlike domestic customers though, the quote is indicative because businesses have to pass a credit check in order to be accepted by their chosen energy company. To help them through this, a dedicated uSwitchforBusiness.com advisor calls the business owner back to ensure that they understand the process and are able to secure a good deal. All admin is then taken care of by the advisor, allowing company owners to get on with running their business rather than dealing with energy contracts.

The new service was launched after research^[1] showed that many business owners struggle to get to grips with the business energy market. Almost a third (31%) find it more of a minefield than the household energy market, while over a quarter (29%) say it is more bureaucratic and 37% find it more complicated^[2]. Just over two in ten (21%) don't know that companies are credit checked for business energy contracts^[3], while 22% are unaware that a credit check could impact on the price their company pays for energy^[4]. The findings underpin the need for support from an independent service with a proven track record of treating customers fairly.

James Constant, Director of uSwitchforBusiness.com, says: “Britain’s small businesses have unknowingly been facing a lottery when it comes to the price they are going to pay for their energy. They have told us that they want to be treated the same as consumers – enjoying a transparent, fair and independent comparison service. And that is what we’re giving them.

“Make no mistake, securing energy for your business is by no means the same as getting a competitive deal at home – the market is structured very differently and prices change every day. However, small businesses are fed up with the minefield they enter each time they need a new contract and want to see as much simplicity and transparency as possible. That’s what we’re giving them.

“Small business owners can be reassured that they are in safe hands as we are building on over 10 years’ experience of helping people get the best value from their energy suppliers. We’ve revolutionised switching in the consumer market, now we’re going to do the same in the business energy market.”

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. Research was conducted in May 2011 on behalf of uSwitchforBusiness.com by Onepoll amongst 1,003 small business owners or key decision makers within SMEs.
2. In response to: ‘How does the small business energy market compare with the household energy market? Please select if it is more, less or the same as the household energy market in the following ways...’.
3. In response to: ‘Has your business failed a credit check for an energy contract within the last 5 years?’ 8.5% said ‘yes’ while 20.6% said ‘I didn’t know businesses were credit checked for an energy contract.’
4. In response to: ‘Has your business ever had to pay more for energy than you were initially quoted following a credit check?’ 11.4% said ‘yes’. 22.4% said ‘I didn’t know a credit check could impact on the price my company pays for energy.’

About us

uSwitchforBusiness.com is a free, independent energy brokerage service focused on helping business customers get the best gas and electricity contracts. It also provides a range of additional products and services, including insurance and communications, which are tailored specifically for customers who own, run or hold responsibility for procurement in a business.

uSwitchforBusiness.com is the sister site of uSwitch.com, the free, impartial, online and telephone-based comparison and switching service which has been helping consumers to save money for over 10 years. uSwitchforBusiness.com was launched in November 2008 in response to requests from business customers wishing to benefit from the same impartial and independent support when buying energy.

uSwitchforBusiness.com offers a dedicated contact-centre manned by a team of business energy specialists, as well as a freepost ‘Send us your bill’ service, whereby businesses can post their latest energy bills with their telephone

number to FREEPOST USWITCHFORBUSINESS, to get a free call back from a dedicated business specialist. Customers can also call 0800 051 5343 or email brokerteam@uswitchforbusiness.com.

uSwitchforBusiness.com is owned by Forward Internet Group Limited, a privately funded collection of internet-based businesses focused on consumer engagement and innovation. It is based in offices at: Centro 3, 19 Mandela Street, London, NW1 0DU.