

have a smooth and pleasant start to their trips.

This takes into account the factors such as the over-

Ultaun Kenny, BA Service Delivery Manager for the Middle East, handed over an

Handling ating through Seeb and Salalah International Airports.

31, 2005. IMD holders can contact Muscat branch of SBI for any clarification.

United Finance Company gets top ranking

By Our Business Reporter

MUSCAT — United Finance Company (UFC) was ranked as Oman's number one finance company by *Business Today* in their first ever ranking of finance companies.

The ranking was achieved by evaluating nine parameters — total assets, earnings per share, return on equity, return on capital, growth in gross loan, net profit growth, efficiency (operating expenses vis-à-vis operating income) and spread.

The evaluation of rankings was done by an international audit firm Ernst and Young for *Business Today*.

UFC offers corporate and consumer finance.

In the corporate finance segment, it offers heavy equipment financing, contract-based financing, working capital finance, bill dis-



SALEH Zakwani handing over the Business Today No 1 Finance Company Award to Jamal Said al Ojaili and Raghavan Murali of United Finance Company.

counting and receivable financing, international financing, commercial real estate construction financing, construction company, bridge loans and com-

In the area of consumer finance, UFC offers consumer electronic finance, car finance (new and pre-owned) and ideal home finance.

Oman Cables turns the tide, exports to UK

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In Oman, OCI's domestic market share stands at around 77 per cent. OCI claims to have captured 70 per cent of Oman's LV power cable market and 80 per cent of the building wires segment.

It posted a net profit of RO 1.368 million in 2004, showing a growth of 82 per cent over 2003. Significantly, OCI has achieved 52 per cent Omanisation, exceeding the prescribed target of 35 per cent.

Oman Cables' expansion project, completed in 2004, marked the manufacturing of medium voltage (MV) underground cables up to 33/36 kv grade.

During this phase, OCI acquired the most modern production and testing equipment available.

The expansion plans are paying off very well. OCI achieved a new milestone during 2004 with its turnover exceeding RO 36 million (\$92 million), showing a growth of 62 per cent over 2003.

Exports have jumped to 55 per cent of the total turnover and have made forays in prestigious markets such as GCC countries, Australia, the UK, Japan, South Korea and Africa. This is in sharp contrast to the scenario just two decades ago when Oman used to source MV cables from the UK.

Hussain feels the tide is finally turning because OCI has reversed the history with these products being exported to the UK and other European countries from Oman.

For Hussain and the entire OCI team, it was a moment of great satisfaction when their expansion project was completed successfully and within a short period they got the first order for medium voltage cables from the UK.

Share	YTD	Company Name	Value
7.5	5	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	2,448
5.1	3.7	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	12,828
2.5	1.5	OMAN CHLORINE	15,010
1.65	1.06	OMAN HOTELS & TOURISM	700
3.81	2.95	MUSCAT GASES	51,932
5.38	5.18	DHOHAR INT. DEV. & INV. HOLDING	41,130
3.78	1.8	IRANBOLU IND. INV. HOLDING	11,110
13.7	6.8	AL JAZEERA TUBE MILLS	11,110
7.1	4.15	OMINVEST	5,000
6.02	3.95	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARK	943
12.18	8.1	BANK MUSCAT	40,141
1.38	0.78	UNITED POWER	13,533
3.38	2.2	AL SHARGIA INV. HOLDING	18,712
2.75	1.5	OMAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE	8,001
7.95	4	OMAN CEMENT	5,585
2.8	1.8	DHOHAR CATTLE FEED	6,300
Totals			1,200,548

Share	YTD	Company Name	Value
4.41	3	OMAN & EMIRATES INV. (OAE)	500
1.26	1.1	VISION EMERSON OCC FUND	19,300
1.92	1.1	DHOHAR UNIVERSITY	98,778
1.8	1.12	OMAN AGRICULTURE DEV.	1,035
1.58	0.71	OMAN TEXTILE MILLS HOLDING	40,339
0.72	0.49	MODERN POULTRY FARMS	500
1.95	1.34	OMAN CHROMITE 50%	4,800
1.85	1.05	NATIONAL SECURITIES	4,180
1.78	1.5	THE FINANCIAL CORPORATION	12,521
0.91	0.8	OMAN NAT. LIVESTOCK DEV. 50%	9,000
1.9	1.67	DHOHAR POWER	37,802
2.72	1	OULF HOTELS (OMAN)	100
3.8	2.8	MUSCAT NATIONAL HOLDING	20
2.27	1.78	AEB BARIKA	21,282
6.2	2.1	OMAN & EMIRATES INV. (OM)	30,380
10.1	4.55	RAYBUT CEMENT	1,900
5	2.37	NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN	34,150
1.72	0.87	AL HABBAN ENGINEERING	860
4.48	2.22	NATIONAL MINERAL WATER	500
Totals			321,832

Share	YTD	Company Name	Value
3.8	0.28	MAJAN GLASS	8,811
2	0.45	OULF INT. CHEMICALS	1,000
0.59	0.28	OMAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	77
0.5	0.12	FLEXIBLE IND. PACKAGES	822
0.47	0.22	SWEETS OF OMAN	1,100
6.66	5	RAYBUT CEMENT - RIGHT ISSUE	33
0.58	0.2	ABRASIVES MANUFACTURING	3,000
0.89	0.28	OMAN MEDICAL PROJECTS	23,081
ADVERTISING & PUBLISHERS (AOC)			15,000
Totals			62,824

52 wk high	52 wk low	Fund Name	Traded Units
1.55	0.8	MUSCAT INDEX FUND JIA	41,700
1.42	0.9	GRVX FUND 2004	270,988
2	1	THE FIRST MAZON FUND	290
1.28	0.77	MAJAN JOINT INV. ACCOUNT	3,000
Funds Total			316,258

Issue Date	Maturity Date	Bond Name	Traded Bonds
13/1/2000	31/03/2008	BANK MUSCAT BONDS 10%	1,239
Bonds Total			1,239

52 wk high	52 wk low	Index Name	Index Pair
8283.72	4403.28	Bank and Investment Index	8182.27
2083.79	1485.09	Bank and Insurance Index	2053.73
4448.23	2841.48	Industry Index	4342.98
8888.32	3302.38	WEM 30	5643.8

PDO signs major deal

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The scope of cargo haulage that will come under the system's umbrella will include, amongst other things, loads from ports to the coast and interior, in-

Sohar seawater channel O&M contract

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Methanol Company, the \$1-billion polyethylene project jointly promoted by Oman Oil Company and Dow Chemical, will include a power and desalination plant, and a power island that

owns pumps to extract seawater and pump it through their own mains. The station will be fully equipped to screen and chlorinate the seawater before it is made available to the industries to extract. Also the return seawater to a common outflow system for discharging it back into the sea. The discharge of seawater will be undertaken as per environmental criteria, and at stipulated temperatures that mulling plans to provide additional seawater intake-and-outflow capacity at the Sohar Industrial Port to serve new projects that were firmed up only recently, and whose

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