

**for immediate release:**

## **royalblue group wins the PLC Award for best technology**

LONDON – 12 March 2007 – royal**blue** (LSE:RYB) has won the 2006 PLC Award for Best Technology. The company beat competition from Aveva Group, GB Group and Imagination Technologies to win this award by demonstrating significant innovation in technology that has enabled outstanding business growth.

Simon Barnby, global director of marketing communications for Fidessa, comments: "We are really proud to win this prestigious award. This has been a significant year for us; we have launched a multi-asset version of our market-leading equities trading platform, we have extended our buy-side execution management service to support derivatives; we have strengthened our offerings in the Asian market; and most recently we have launched BlueBox, our integrated algorithmic trading system. These initiatives have helped increase our customer base by over 50%."

The PLC Awards – supported by PricewaterhouseCoopers and the Financial Times (FT) – are designed to reward excellence in the smaller quoted sector. The companies should be listed on the LSE main market but not in either the FTSE-100 or the FTSE-250 indices. Once the panel has selected its shortlists, the winners are decided between the panel and FT readers.

The company demonstrated solid trading performance for 2006 with revenues and pre-tax profits rising by 27% and recurring revenue up 38%, now representing 72% of the total.

In the past year, Fidessa has been listed by Financial News as one of the 21 technology firms with the potential to shape the industry landscape in the new

millennium and has also been recognised among the world's top financial technology vendors in the 2006 Securities Tech50 listing.

The Fidessa product suite provides integrated multi-asset trading, market data and connectivity solutions to over 10,000 users at around 320 clients around the world, and serves over 85% of global, tier-one equity brokers. The Fidessa network provides connectivity to around 1,000 buy-side institutions, 200 brokers and 82 exchanges globally.

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#### **About Fidessa**

**Fidessa** is a world-leading solution for multi-asset trading, market data and global connectivity. Available as a simple workstation or as an integrated application suite, **Fidessa** is built on the vision of providing the richest trading functionality, market coverage, order management and execution capabilities to all tiers of the buy-side and sell-side communities.

Head-quartered in London and with offices in New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Paris and Toronto, **Fidessa** serves over 10,000 users at around 320 clients, and is used by over 85% of global, tier-one equity brokers around the world.

**Fidessa's** global FIX network provides connectivity to over 200 brokers, 82 exchanges and around 1,000 buy-sides worldwide.

Founded in 1981, royal**blue** group plc, provider of Fidessa, posted revenues of £94.6m in 2006, up 27% on 2005, with an operating profit of £12.4m, up 29%, with recurring revenues accounting for 72%.

royal**blue** employs around 850 people globally and has been fully listed on the LSE (RYB) since 1997.