

Press Release

3rd December 2008

For immediate release

3 MAJOR CONTRACTS AND NEW OPERATIONS CENTRE FOR CHECKMATE

In preparation for its launch in 2009, Checkmate Mortgages the new lender founded by Stephen Knight today announced that it has signed contracts with DPR, Experian and Getronics to support its launch. Checkmate is partnering with these suppliers to create innovative technology solutions backed with the latest credit and fraud protection products.

- DPR will develop Checkmate's Point of Sale Offer system using the latest technologies and a team of experienced developers.
- Getronics is to support the new lender with its IT infrastructure, offering IT support services and data centre hosting.
- Experian is providing a range of risk, fraud detection and customer management tools to provide insight that will enable Checkmate to quickly and efficiently make appropriate customer decisions.

Barry Searle, Managing Director of Operations for Checkmate said: "We have worked closely with KPMG IT Consulting to select like-minded companies to provide best-in-class technology and work is now underway to deliver a cutting edge system to coincide with our launch in 2009."

The company also confirmed that it has signed a lease on new premises in Farnborough, Hampshire. This office will be the company's operations centre and existing staff have been based there from 1st December 2008. The premises are large enough to support the company's recruitment plans for the next few years. A central London office will also be maintained.

Barry Searle added: "We aim to deliver a 5 star service to the intermediary market and are now in a position to be up and running with a full operations centre as soon as market conditions permit."

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### Notes to editor:

- Checkmate Mortgages was founded by Stephen Knight and launched using his personal capital on 1 October 2007.
- In July 2008 the company announced that it had successfully raised the external capital to allow new lending to commence in 2009, when market conditions permit.
- External shareholders include RIT Capital Partners plc and Lord Rothschild's family interests. The management team hold a significant stake in the company with Stephen Knight remaining as the largest shareholder-individual.
- DPR is a specialist consultancy developing software solutions for the lending sector of financial services. Customers include The Royal Bank of Scotland, Natwest Bank, Merrill Lynch and Edeus.
- Getronics is an IT services company with expertise in workspace management, application, consulting and transformation services.
- Experian is a global leader in providing information, analytical and marketing services to organisations and consumers to help manage the risk and reward of commercial and financial decisions.
- Spectrum Point provides quality open plan office accommodation situated in a prominent location adjacent to Farnborough Station.