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Sweet & Maxwell launch JCT Contracts Digital Service

Sweet & Maxwell, the leading legal publisher, have launched the JCT Contracts Digital Service (previously known as JCT Forms on Disk) after intensive development and testing. The service will bring together the JCT 05 suite of contracts with a powerful contract creation wizard and editing tool and an archive of the JCT 98 contracts on a single CD-ROM.

The digital service completes the sweeping modernisation of the presentation of JCT contracts initiated by Sweet & Maxwell after it was appointed to publish the contracts last year and includes the most extensive updating by JCT of their contracts at any time in their history.

The contract wizard intelligently creates a bespoke contract based on the results of a user question and answer session. Tailored contracts can then be saved for future use, emailed between users and edited electronically. Amendments are tracked and colour-coded so as to be easily identifiable, and printed contracts are clearly watermarked 'draft' until a final version is printed.

Additional contracts will be added to the service and will be available to download from the JCT website (www.jctcontracts.com) using Sweet & Maxwell's built-in online update service.

Linda Casbolt, of Sweet & Maxwell, comments: "The JCT digital service marks the complete transformation of these contracts over the last 12 months to the point where users can now create and edit contracts with ease in a fraction of the time it would normally take."

"We have gone through a lengthy period of developing and testing and are now confident that we have a suite of tools that the industry is going to find user friendly and a significant boost to efficiency."

"The contract creation wizard and editing tools should help eliminate errors which can be made drafting contracts by hand and ensure that amendments are transparent so that costly and time-consuming disputes are minimised."

The JCT print contracts are used on a vast majority of the UK's construction projects and were conceived to spearhead contract standardisation in order to reduce transaction costs and improve communication within the construction industry.

At launch the digital service will include 2005 versions of the following contracts and guides:

1. Standard Building Contracts
2. Intermediate Building Contracts
3. Minor Works Building Contracts
4. Design and Build Contract
5. Major Project Construction Contract
6. Adjudication Agreements
7. Framework Agreements

Plus the following JCT 98 contracts and guides in a read-only PDF archive:

1. Standard Form of Building Contract
2. Intermediate Form of Building Contract
3. Agreement for Minor Building Works
4. Standard Form of Building Contract with Contractor's Design
5. Major Project Form
6. Adjudication Agreement

A second CD will be issued later this year and will contain the following Sub-Contracts and guides:

1. Standard Building Sub-Contracts
2. Intermediate Building Sub-Contracts
3. Design and Build Sub-Contract
4. Major Project Sub-Contract
5. Short Form of Sub-Contract
6. Sub-subcontract
7. Collateral Warranties

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Sweet & Maxwell (www.sweetandmaxwell.thomson.com) is a leading provider of information and solutions to the legal and professional markets in the UK and Ireland. With over 200 years of history and heritage in legal publishing, Sweet & Maxwell offers detailed and specialist knowledge, understanding, interpretation and commentary across a wide range of subjects in a variety of formats to meet customers' needs - books, journals, periodicals, looseleaves, CD-ROMs and online services.

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