

US Northern Ireland Investment Conference

Cleaver Fulton Rankin, one of Northern Ireland's leading corporate law firms, notes the success of the recent US Northern Ireland Investment Conference which attracted over 100 delegates and took place from 7-9 May 2008. Delegates heard a number of existing major North American investors, including Mike Zafirovski (Nortel), Jim Foster (Citi), John Spangler (Seagate) Brian Goggin (Bank of Ireland Security Services), Cathy Brune (Allstate), Stuart McGuigan (Liberty IT), and Bill Rohner (Caterpillar) talk about their experience of investing in Northern Ireland.

Cleaver Fulton Rankin would like to point out that if any of the International Lawyers Network member firms are approached with regard to doing business in Northern Ireland then Cleaver Fulton Rankin is well placed to provide legal advice and assistance.

The following comments were delivered at the start of the Conference and are excerpts from press releases highlighting the importance of the event both now and in the future.

Economy Minister Nigel Dodds welcomed Corporate America to Northern Ireland, at the start of the US-NI Investment Conference.

Addressing the delegates at a welcome reception at the Transport Museum, Cultra, the Minister said: "This conference welcomes the largest and most influential business delegation ever to visit Northern Ireland at any one time.

"This is a unique opportunity for us to showcase the region, an opportunity we are determined to take.

"When Invest Northern Ireland first started planning for this conference, we had hoped to attract 30 to 40 senior executives from major US corporations operating in those market sectors where we see the best opportunities for future inward investment. With the recent volatility in global markets, the timing was questioned and many doubted that we would achieve this target.

"We are therefore delighted that over 100 senior representatives of US businesses have been sufficiently intrigued to take the time from their busy schedules to come over from the United States, a majority for the first time.

First Minister Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness have heralded the US-NI investment conference as a potential catalyst for economic transformation in Northern Ireland.

Welcoming the delegation from the US, Dr Paisley said: "This conference is a vitally important one for us all. In these difficult economic times it is a matter of great encouragement that we have exceeded our expectations in terms of numbers of leading business and political figures that have come to join us. We are also delighted to welcome the Prime Ministers of Britain and the Republic of Ireland and also the endorsement of US President Bush and EU Commission President Barroso for the conference.

If you would like further information on the Conference please see the website links below:

<http://www.investni.com/apps/usniconference/usniwebsite/index.html>

<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-deti/news-deti-080508-northern-ireland-now.htm>

<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-ofmdfm/news-ofmdfm-060508-paisley-and-mcguinness.htm>

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