



Credit appetite continues to increase

(8th December 2010 – Australia) Appetite for business credit amongst Australia's mid-corporates (businesses with an annual turnover of \$20 - \$100 million) is continuing to increase, according to East & Partners' latest Commercial Credit Index.

Over 40 percent of businesses in this segment are now looking to increase the size of their lending facility in the next six months. Of those businesses planning to increase the size of their current lending facility, they are looking to do so by almost a quarter relative to their current borrowings.

Nevertheless, a significant number of Australian mid-corporates still remain concerned that access to credit and general business funding will inhibit the growth of their business.

"This latest Index result for November continues the trend we have been seeing that there is renewed enthusiasm for business credit amongst Australian mid-corporates" Robert Morgan, East & Partners' head of market analysis said.

"However, issues such as access to credit continue to temper this enthusiasm and it will be fascinating to see how these issues effect credit demand during the first part of next year," Mr Morgan concluded.

About East & Partners' Commercial Credit Index

East & Partners' Commercial Credit Index is based on interviews conducted each month Australia-wide with a structured sample of 260 companies turning over A\$20-100 million per annum, some over 3,000 direct interviews with business banking customers annually.

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