

EMGARGOED TO MONDAY 17 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS EVE 2007 SET TO BE THE BIGGEST WASTE OF TIME FOR WORKERS

Regus calls on British bosses to give employees an early Christmas present and let them work flexibly on Christmas Eve

LONDON, 17 DECEMBER, 2007: A new survey commissioned by Regus, the world's largest supplier of work space, reveals Christmas Eve 2007 is set to be a complete waste of time and energy for businesses.

With Christmas Eve falling on a Monday this year, just over 1 in 4 (27 %) of Brits will be working. The figure is slightly higher in the US at 31%, but lower still in Germany – traditionally thought of as one of the hardest working nations - at 23%. The last time Christmas Eve fell on a Monday was in 2001, making this the second time this century that the date of Christmas has prompted low business turn-out.

In the UK, the biggest show of workers in the office will be seen in the North West of England, with 72% of those working over Christmas turning up on Christmas Eve. However, in Wales, only two fifths of Christmas workers will be showing their face in work on Christmas Eve.

Even those employees who are working on Christmas Eve are likely to arrive late after a festive party weekend, and then leave early, with most businesses closing around lunch time.

Over 60% openly admitted they wouldn't be working as hard as usual while 1 in 10 revealed they will be shopping online or catching up with friends on Facebook.

More ...

Aside from the lack of productivity on this wasted day, there will be a very real cost to the environment with heating, lighting and power for offices operating with skeleton staff.

Jayne o'Brien, Chief Marketing Officer of Regus comments:

“Christmas Eve falling on a Monday this year could end up being a complete waste of time, energy and money for businesses and employees .With around three-quarters of Brits planning to take the day off, we're calling on bosses to allow those staff who could remain productive, to work flexibly on Christmas Eve this year– whether that's from home or a business centre nearby – rather than commuting to work in an almost empty office.

Closing offices and enabling staff to work flexibly on Christmas Eve would also have significant environmental impact. The business world accounts for 40% of CO₂ and office commuting alone contributes 19.7 million tonnes of CO₂ per annum in the UK.

According to recent research by Durham University and JBA in the UK, companies can reduce their carbon emissions by around 5% by closing the office for one day per week and enabling staff to work flexibly.

The research was conducted during November by GMI among 5892 UK, US and German workers.

- ENDS -

For further information:

Contact Rebecca Williams at CHA PR on 020 7622 8252 or email Rebecca.williams@chapr.co.uk

Notes to editors

About the research

The research was conducted as an online survey, using GMI's omnibus panel, between Friday 16 November and Wednesday 21 November 2007. GMI (Global Market Insite, Inc.) provides integrated solutions for global market intelligence. GMI currently has a consumer panel reach of 13 million households in 200 countries and territories. Contact details for GMI in the UK: GMI, Exchange Plaza 58, Uxbridge Road, 3rd Floor, London, W5 2ST. +44(0)20 8231 0542 or online at www.gmi-mr.com or email us at info@gmi-mr.com.

More....

About The Regus Group

The Regus Group is the world's leading provider of workplace solutions, with products and services ranging from fully equipped offices to professional meeting rooms, business lounges and the largest network of videoconferencing studios. The Regus Group delivers a new way to work, whether it's from home, on the road or from an office. Clients such as Google, GlaxoSmithKline, IBM, Nokia and Accenture join thousands of growing small and medium businesses that benefit from outsourcing their office and workplace needs to The Regus Group, allowing them to focus on their core business. Over 200,000 clients a day benefit from Regus Group facilities spread across a global footprint of 950 locations in 400 cities and 70 countries, which allows individuals and companies to work wherever, however and whenever they want to. For more information, visit www.regus.com