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## I-paye expands north of the border

Payroll specialist I-paye has expanded its business to Scotland, including offices in Aberdeen and Glasgow.

I-paye works with contractors, freelancers and self-employed professionals, helping them with their payrolls and other financial requirements.

The company said yesterday it had enjoyed massive growth in sales during the past four years, with turnover increasing to £68million in 2008-09 from £34million in 2005-06.

## SPE Aberdeen hosting dinner at Heriot-Watt

The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Aberdeen section welcomes guest speaker Cameron Laing to a networking dinner tonight in the Edinburgh Conference Centre at Heriot-Watt University.

The director of Laing Engineering and Training Services will talk on how the capital and central Scotland have made significant contributions to oil industry history, tracing their roots back hundreds of years before offshore oil.

## Seasonal boost for fashion retailer

Fashion retailer Ted Baker said yesterday that store sales had risen by more than 20% after a good response to spring and summer ranges.

Analysts lifted profit targets after the designer brand's update for the 19 weeks to June 12 indicated 10% growth in like-for-like sales, much better than the low-to-mid single digits predicted in the City.

Pannure Gordon stockbrokers said it now expected profits of £23.5 million in the year to January, up 4% on its previous forecast.

## N Brown snaps up online lingerie seller

Catalogue and home-shopping company N Brown has bought online lingerie retailer Figleaves.com for £11.5million.

Figleaves, established in 1998, also sells swimwear and is expected to generate turnover of £23million for the year to the end of June.

The business employs 30 staff at its Bridge of Don base and has annual turnover of nearly £5million. Mr Cowie, who has been with the company for eight years, becomes managing director.

Mr Hayton, previously with chartered surveyor Doig and Smith in Edinburgh, becomes sales and technical director. Mr Black will continue to support the new owners by taking on a business-development role.

Earlier this month, it emerged he was one of the new owners of one of the

everything he's done for Nu-Style

33

1990. It is involved in roofing supplies, plus metal and laminate fabrication.

The customer base is predominantly north-east contractors and subcontractors, but also includes local authorities, the NHS and an increasing number of businesses operating in the North Sea oil and gas industry.

Mr Cowie said: "I'm de-

lighted we've completed deal. We are grateful for everything he's done for Nu-Style over the years and for agreeing on to support us through period of transition business.

"We are buying a gr-

# Top chef to share his passion for excellence

## NAIRN TO SPEAK AT NORTH FOOD AWARDS

BY IAN FORSYTH

CHEF Nick Nairn will share his passion for excellence at this year's Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards in Inverness.

He is keynote speaker at the event on Friday, October 29, in the Drumossie Hotel.

Businesses and individuals are reminded that the deadline is nearing for entries, which must be submitted by 5pm on Monday, June 28.

The honours celebrate excellence and achievement in the area's food and drink industry.

They are organised by the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Forum and supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Title sponsor is Williamson Foodservice.



Nick Nairn: ambassador

Categories include the Taste of the Highlands and Islands Restaurant of the Year Award, sponsored by the Press and Journal, while another is the young ambassador.

Among others are those recognising healthier food and drink, good environmental practice, innovation, businesses working in collaboration with each other, plus new products and businesses.

More information is available on website [www.hifoodanddrinkawards.com](http://www.hifoodanddrinkawards.com)

Gary Williamson, managing director of Williamson Foodservice, said: "Nick Nairn is one of Scotland's great food ambassadors, well-known for supporting the use of local produce to maximise on flavour and quality in his dishes. I'm looking forward to hearing more about Nick's own experiences of establishing a successful food business through his restaurant and cookery school. Sharing best practice is a great way to encourage high standards throughout our industry."

Food forum chairwoman Hazel Gordon said: "We are delighted Nick Nairn will give the keynote speech.

"As one of the UK's top chefs, his enthusiasm for food and food-related issues is self-evident and, added to this, he is able to bring his experience of building and operating his business in the food and drink industry."



Alan Booth: side

## Potent in Catcher East a

ENCORE Oil said that well-testing on its Catcher oil field in UK central North Sea had been completed.

Chief executive Alan Booth said: "Our initial Catcher have been very positive by the information gathered. Our next step is to take the side track into the East area where we will encounter additional carbon bearing rocks."

"We believe the East area will have the potential to add significant volume to the Catcher discovery elsewhere in the field." The Catcher field has a minimum 240-million barrels of oil in place with a capacity of 90ft.

It was previously estimated as a light oil field with 25-50million barrels of recoverable reserves, partner Premier Oil.

Equity in the field is shared between EnCore (15%), Premier Oil (35%), Shell (20%), Petroleum (15%) and Oil and Gas (15%).