

## press release

3 February 2011

### VODAFONE AND ROYAL DUTCH SHELL OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCOME INVESTORS

- The Share Centre lists Vodafone as a 'buy' due to its exposure to emerging markets
- Royal Dutch Shell remains The Share Centre's sector pick

**As Royal Dutch Shell quadruple Q4 profits, Graham Spooner, investment adviser at The Share Centre, comments on what this means to investors.**

"Higher energy prices, an increase in production and cost-cutting all played a part in Shell reporting profits of \$18.6bn for 2010 – almost twice as high as in 2009. Earnings for the last three months of 2010 rose to \$5.7bn compared to \$1.2bn the previous year.

"2010 saw the oil company make \$7bn of acquisitions and invest \$3bn in exploration, as well as a number of major projects from Qatar to Brazil started producing oil and gas, lifting output and revenue, and ensuring growth.

"Shell is our sector pick and is viewed as a core holding for any blue chip income geared portfolio. Income seekers should note the company offer a healthy dividend of 42 cents per share for Q4 and this is likely to remain the same for the Q1 of this year."

Commenting on Vodafone positive trading statement, Spooner added:

"Figures released by Vodafone this morning confirm the strength of the mobile phone giant's global presence – especially in emerging markets.

“Revenue rose 3.5% to £11.9bn during the three months ended 31 December 2010, driven by strong growth in India and parts of Europe. Service revenue was a driver for Vodafone; in India it rose by 16.7%, Turkey delivered a 31.7% rise and the UK saw a 7% increase. However, Spain saw service revenue fall by over 7%.

“Customer growth and higher data revenue, from smartphone sales, led to Verizon Wireless in the US also seeing 7% rise.

“Due to its promise of global growth and the company’s pledge to increase its annual dividend by at least 7% for the next three years, we continue to list Vodafone as a ‘buy’.

“Investors seeking income should be happy to hold onto this stock and consider increasing their holding. The potential is strong and Vodafone’s exposure to emerging markets is an attractive prospect for investors.”

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**Notes to editors:**

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**About The Share Centre:**

The Share Centre was established in 1990 to provide value-for-money share services for private investors. Its range of services includes buying and selling shares (by Internet, telephone and post) and a comprehensive share administration and safe custody service. Tax-efficient investment 'wrappers' including ISAs, CTFs and SIPP's are also available.

The Share Centre's Advice team provides comment on market sectors, individual shares and funds on [www.share.com](http://www.share.com). Access is available to customers and registered users of the site. Registration is free. To understand how our Advice team arrive at their views please read our [Investment Research Policy](#)

In addition, account customers can receive individual telephone advice on UK-listed shares and on funds traded via the CoFunds trading platform.

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