

press release

1 March 2011

Share of the week from The Share Centre

Nick Raynor, investment adviser at The Share Centre picks the largest suppliers of gas in the UK, Centrica as his share of the week, here's why:

“Centrica remains a solid buy for investors seeking a lower level of risk with reasonable returns. The dividend of 4.2% should appeal to income seekers and there are also some attractive qualities for growth hunters.

“The group has sought to protect itself from exposure to the volatile commodity market by increasing the volume of gas it supplies from its own production by about 45% - buying the rest on the open market.

“Investors seeking growth will be encouraged by the extra 265,000 residential customers who joined British Gas in 2010. Also, a recent deal with the state of Qatar will supply Centrica with enough liquid natural gas to supply 10% of UK households. However, it is worth noting that dependency on overseas supply will only grow in time as reserves in the North Sea gradually deplete.

“Centrica's latest set of results, released in late February, were positive for shareholders. Revenues only rose slightly from £22bn to £22.4bn and in comparison profits rose almost three-fold to £2.8bn. We have no doubt profits will continue to rise further after the recent 7% rise in gas and electricity tariffs.”

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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. 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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