

# Interest in property is on the rise

■ THE INTEREST in Platinum Property Partners (PPP) has surged in the last six months as it attracts a wider spectrum of people looking for a secure long-term investment.

One of the reasons attributed to the rise is "people are looking for an alternative pension provision and monthly returns, which they're simply not getting in other more traditional areas, such as savings accounts, pension funds and stocks and shares," explained PPP's Sarah Walker:

"Now we're seeing interest from people for whom the fact that it's property is almost irrelevant – it's the investment returns and the security of the assets that are attracting them."



## Funding agreement in 48 hours



■ BANKS CAN provide an agreement within 48 hours of meeting the customer, providing they have all of the information required, according to

HSBC Head of Franchising Cathryn Hayes.

Cathryn commented: "Franchisees can help banks speed up the process by ensuring they have fully completed their business plan before approaching the bank. They will also need to have completed a cash flow forecast that takes into account their working capital requirements before their business starts to generate a profit. By providing all of the necessary information the bank will be able to assess the franchisee's request quickly and effectively."

## Lloyds Bank Group and RBS commit £94 billion to UK businesses

■ RBS WILL make £50 billion available to UK businesses, and Lloyds Banking Group has committed £44 billion to new business lending in 2010.

Responding to the announcement by the Chancellor in his Budget speech, Philip Hampton, chairman of RBS Group said: "We have the capital to make this lending available to support our customers. We are committed to ensuring our credit worthy personal and business customers can access the funding they require."



## Quote of the month



*The most important thing about being in business is that you do something you love.*



**Toni Mascolo OBE, founder of Toni & Guy speaking at The British & International Franchise Exhibition, read the full review on page 15.**