

BuySell branches out

BUYSELL Real Estate, Cyprus' largest agency network, has expanded its reach out of the island and into the markets of the US, Greece and Bulgaria. The firm said the move is driven by the large ex-pat buyer markets residing in each country's respective cities.

Litsa Chrysostomou, marketing director at the firm, said: "Offices have recently opened in Austin, Texas and Greece's largest cities, Athens and Thessaloniki. In June we will be opening offices in New York City as well as two more in Bulgaria, adding to the existing three.

"We have chosen cities with large populations and will be selling properties to both the domestic and international markets thanks to our network of international clientele," she added.

BuySell Real Estate explained that the move to New York City was chosen because of its status as a property investment destination and also because of the large amounts of Greek expats residing in the city



- providing the opportunity to cross-sell them property back in Greece.

The agency chose Texas, it said, because, unlike other states, property prices have not decreased with the poor economic conditions in the US and the population is projected to increase by 10 million leading up to 2020.

Bonin Sanso takes customer care to new heights in Menorca

MENORCAN estate agency Bonin Sanso has purchased a Cessna four-seat aircraft to give potential property purchasers a birds-eye view of the island. Co-founding partner Juan Torres, who has held his licence for five years, and sales negotiator Beverley Ward, with 14 years flying experience, alongside their sales roles, take prospective buyers on tours of the island to help boost sales.



Albania gets Collier-ed

COLLIERS International Southeast Europe division has opened a new office in Albania.

Headed up by Philip Bay, MD for Albania (and regional director of Colliers Southeast Europe as a whole), told OPP: "Colliers is the only international property consultancy to have its own office in Albania, and we believe Albania has an extremely bright future."

Colliers International Southeast Europe was named 'Property Consultant of the Year' for the region in 2007 for the second straight year. It has now opened nine offices in six countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro and Serbia), and performs selected assignments in Slovenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, FYR of Macedonia, and Cyprus.



BBC journo goes on Show

INTERNATIONAL property portal Propertyshowrooms.com has employed former BBC News reporter Cary Johnston as it expands its media department.

Johnston brings more than 20 years of journalistic experience, from his work in the media, to the company. "I'm delighted to have joined such a dynamic team at the forefront of international property investment," explained Johnston, whose former



reporting credits include the Six O'clock News, BBC radio 5-Live, and the BBC World Service.

"It's hugely refreshing to find a real estate company that provides investors with the strictest legal safeguards in the business. I should know, I've reported on some dodgy companies in the past!" he added.

IN BRIEF

Torrance comes First

DUBAI specialist the First Group has signed former golfing professional and Ryder Cup captain Sam Torrance as its latest investor and ambassador. Torrance joins Premiership footballer Michael Owen as the latest sports personality to own property in Dubai Sports City.

Finnish in sight

EUROPEAN-BASED investment specialist Kenmore Property Group (KPG) has opened a new office in Finland to be headed up by Hannu Manninen.

Hannu has over 16 years experience in the property industry and comes to his role from the Schaumann Group and previously Newsec. In the last few months, KPG has opened offices in Stockholm, Berlin and Antwerp.



Industry roundup

MICHAEL Axelrod has started as commercial director for Conti Financial Services, having previously worked at Parador for five years as a director. Holidaylettings.co.uk has renovated its offices to facilitate its growth to over 50 staff. **PR firm Charterhouse Communications has gone into administration.** UAE-based Emirates International Properties has re-branded as Bloom Properties. **Investment specialist David Stanley Redfern has launched a Russian language division, consisting of a new office with Russian staff based in Moscow.**