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Sample Wed Mar 3, 2010

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Australian & NZ news

NSW Lotteries buy will boost Tatts: CEO [important article]

New South Wales - Gaming firm Tatts Group says its \$850 million acquisition of NSW Lotteries is a natural extension of its Australian lotteries businesses and will drive significant operating efficiencies. "The company's acquisition of NSW Lotteries is a logical and natural expansion of its lottery businesses in Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, Northern Territory and the ACT," Tatts chief Executive Dick McIlwain said.

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-business/nsw-lotteries-buy-will-boost-tatts-ceo-20100302-pfo7.html>

Tatts' pricey jackpot [noteworthy article]

New South Wales - The one thing that everyone who was involved or interested in the process for the sale of NSW Lotteries agrees is that Dick McIlwain has paid a very big price. The \$850 million price-tag – at least \$150 million more than the market had anticipated – will delight the cash-strapped NSW government, which will also pulled out \$160 million in cash and other assets ahead of the sale. Depending on who one talks to, Tatts Group has paid a multiple of a bit over seven times NSW Lotteries' earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) and 17 times!

<http://www.businessspectator.com.au/bs.nsf/Article/Tatts-Group-Tabcorp-NSW-Lotteries-pd20100302-3685D?OpenDocument&src=sph>

Tatts to Buy New South Wales Lottery for \$766 Million

New South Wales - ... Tatts, already the nation's largest lottery operator, has licenses in three Australian states and two territories. The latest acquisition will help add about A\$120 million to annual earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization by 2014, the company said. ... Tatts fell 3.4 percent to close at A\$2.30 in Sydney, its largest decline since Sept. 2. The stock rose 3.3 percent yesterday. ... Lotteries were the fastest-growing unit in Tatts' first-half earnings announced last week as a run of record jackpots fueled sales. The New South Wales purchase is the company's biggest since paying A\$2 billion for Unitab Ltd. in 2006.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aGB2Ok.Kzwil>

Welfare sector demands gambling action

Tasmania - State welfare providers want Tasmania's political parties to tackle problem gambling. The welfare sector and Independent South Australian Senator Nick Xenophon have launched a

policy wish list in the lead up to the State election. They want reduced opening hours of gaming venues, bet limits of \$1 and fewer gaming machines. Senator Xenophon was elected on a 'no pokies' platform and says it is not enough for the next Government to promise a review into the Productivity Commission's report into problem gambling.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/a/-/australian-news/6873894/welfare-sector-demands-gambling-action/>

Consultation on Terms of Reference for Second Gambling Impact Study

Tasmania - The Minister for Human Services, Lin Thorp, announced the Department of Treasury and Finance would consult with key stakeholders on the draft terms of reference for the second social and economic impact study of gambling in Tasmania. Ms Thorp said the draft terms of reference had been prepared as the basis for consultation with key stakeholders. The second study is required to be tabled in Parliament by November 2011.

<http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=29333> –

Majority wants more pokie control: survey

Tasmania - Eight out of 10 Tasmanians want poker machine bets limited to \$1 a slot, and shorter gambling hours, a new poll has found. The results of the November poll of 1000 voters by Enterprise Market and Research Services will be released in Hobart this morning by South Australia's anti-gambling Senator Nick Xenophon.

<http://www.examiner.com.au/news/local/news/human-interest/majority-wants-more-pokie-control-survey/1764389.aspx>

Gambling report concerns clubs

Queensland - Brothers Leagues Club general manager Mark Hennelly says community clubs have been unfairly targeted in the Productivity Commission's report into gambling. The final report was handed to the Federal Government late last week and it is expected to consider the report before publicly releasing it. Mr Hennelly said the report focused on gaming machines in clubs and hotels with little attention paid to other forms of gambling.

<http://www.qt.com.au/story/2010/03/02/report-panned-by-concerned-clubs/>

Brimbank pokies reel in \$71m

Victoria - Gamblers have lost almost \$71 million on Brimbank poker machines in the first six months of the financial year, despite a State Government cap on the number of machines. No other Victorian municipality saw higher losses in that period. Between July and December last year, \$70.98 million was lost on pokies at Brimbank's 15 gaming venues. That figure is more than \$600,000 higher than the \$70.38 million lost in the first six months of the 2008-09 financial year - a year where the total losses in the municipality topped the table for the state at \$136 million.

<http://brimbank-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/brimbank-pokies-reel-in-71m/>

Decision nears for 30 pokies

Victoria - City of Greater Bendigo councillors will decide tomorrow night if they support the Foundry Hotel's bid for 30 gaming machines. City officers will recommend to councillors that the overall economic and social impact of the hotel's gaming proposal is detrimental to Bendigo. The Foundry Hotel Complex is hoping to share in the pool of 547 gaming machines in Bendigo.

<http://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/news/local/news/general/decision-nears-for-30-pokies/1764212.aspx>

Council fights Whittlesea pokies proposal

Victoria – Whittlesea Council will fight the city's latest gaming application by the Royal Mail Hotel with a submission to the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation. The Whittlesea township hotel proposes to include 30 machines in its new gaming room as part of planned renovations. It proposes to use machines coming from other Whittlesea venues.

<http://whittlesea-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/council-fights-whittlesea-pokies-proposal/>

Asian news

Sands China profit rises 22% in 2009

Macau - Sands China Ltd., the Macau casino operator controlled by Las Vegas tycoon Sheldon Adelson, said Tuesday its net profit for 2009 climbed 21.7%, helped by higher earnings as its casinos in the world biggest gambling hub attracted more than 35 million visitors. Macau's second-largest gambling company by revenue behind SJM Holdings Ltd. its net profit totaled \$213.8 million for the year ended Dec. 31, up from \$175.7 million in 2008, according to a filing with Hong Kong securities regulators Tuesday.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/sands-china-profit-rises-22-in-2009-2010-03-02?siteid=nbkh>

Sands China 2009 Net Income Rises 22% on Macau Gambling Surge [important article]

Macau - Sands China Ltd., Asia's biggest listed casino operator, said 2009 profit rose 22 percent on higher spending in the world's biggest gambling hub. Net income increased to \$213.8 million from \$175.7 million a year earlier, Sands China, which has the second-biggest market share among Macau casinos, said in a statement to Hong Kong's stock exchange today. That compared with the \$225 million mean estimate of four analysts surveyed by Bloomberg.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-03-02/sands-china-2009-net-income-rises-22-on-macau-gambling-surge.html>

Sands China Q4 lags forecast, margins to expand

Macau - Sands China, the world's most valuable casino operator by market value, posted quarterly earnings slightly behind forecasts but said its cost savings and efficiency programmes would boost future margins.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTOE62006Y20100302?type=marketsNews>

Macau's February casino revenue reportedly up 70%

Macau - Gambling revenue in Macau rose about 70% in February from a year earlier. Gambling revenue totaled 13.4 billion patacas (\$1.68 billion) for the month, according reports citing preliminary figures from the city's six casino concessionaires.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/macaus-february-casino-revenue-reportedly-up-70-2010-03-02?d=theaustralian>

Ministry raises stakes on gambling

China - The Ministry of Public Security has vowed to step up its crackdown on online gambling. Initial statistics show more than 2,000 foreign and domestic gambling Websites target Chinese gamblers, said Gu Jian, deputy director of the ministry's cyber security bureau.

<http://english.eastday.com/e/100301/u1a5048371.html>

Singapore's Marina Bay Sands project to open in April

Singapore - Las Vegas Sands Corp. announced it plans to open the first phase of its \$5.5 billion Marina Bay Sands development on April 27, 2010. Arguably one of the world's most challenging construction projects and certainly the most expensive stand-alone integrated resort property ever built, Marina Bay Sands will immediately go to work by hosting its first event, the Inter-Pacific Bar Association's annual conference, just days after opening its doors.

<http://www.hotelworldnetwork.com/international/singapores-marina-bay-sands-project-open-april-7476>

Sands guarded about Singapore's casino industry in the future

Singapore - Despite all the media hype about Sentosa IR being off to a "good start", officials from Las Vegas Sands (LVS) which will operate Singapore's second casino Marina Bay Sands

scheduled to open on April 27 appeared to be guarded about its prospects. LVS president and chief operating officer Michael Leven told the Reuters Travel and Leisure Summit: "We are not disappointed in what we're seeing in Genting, but it's too early to assess". LVS is still seeking to refinance about US\$5 billion of US loans this year and it is counting on LVS's performance to clear the covenants.

<http://www.temasekreview.com/2010/03/02/sands-guarded-about-singapores-casino-industry-in-the-future/>

State govt reboots for online lottery scheme

India - Goa has decided to revive its efforts to start an online lottery an official said. The government expects an annual revenue of Rs 22 crore from it, the official added. The government had made similar efforts a couple of years ago and had decided to offer the contract to operate the lottery to a private company against a one-time payment of Rs 25 crore. In addition, it had sought a share from the income the online lottery would generate.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/State-govt-reboots-for-online-lottery-scheme/articleshow/5631659.cms>

European news

Ban on foreign casino operators breaks EU law, says Advocate General [important article]

Europe - Countries which ban foreign firms from operating casinos are breaking EU law, a legal advisor to Europe's top court has said. The ban discriminates against companies from other countries without any sound basis, the advisor said. Ján Mazák is an Advocate General at the EU's top court, the Court of Justice. Advocates General publish opinions on cases which judges can follow or ignore. They are followed in around 80% of cases. Mazák has said that an Austrian law which forbids companies that do not have Austria as their base from running casinos is an unjustified restraint on their freedom to trade across EU borders, which is one of the founding principles of the EU.

<http://www.out-law.com/default.aspx?page=10797>

Estonia to Fight Against Illegal Online Gambling

Estonia - The Estonian Tax and Custom Board made it clear: illegal gambling will no longer be tolerate in Estonia. Following the dispositions of the new gambling law entered into force on January 1st and aimed to create a proper regulation on the long-distance gambling market through the introduction of a State-issued licenses system, the Tax Board compiled a list of nearly 200 websites that offer games to Estonian without being in line with the current regulation. The purpose of paying more attention on the respect of the legislation, surely welcomed by Olympic Casino – the only company operating in Estonia with a regular license, should now be followed by some different and concrete measures.

<http://www.estonianfreepress.com/2010/03/estonia-to-fight-against-illegal-online-gambling/>

Brussels casino relocates

Belgium - Grand Casino Brussels closed its doors on Saturday to allow for gaming operations to relocate to a new venue as part of Casinos Austria International's Viage Entertainment Centre.

<http://www.intergameonline.com/intergaming/news/3549/brussels-casino-relocates/>

UK news

Paddy Power Full-year Profit Down [important article]

UK - Paddy Power PLC announced its preliminary results for the year ended 31 December 2009. Profit for the year attributable to equity shareholders of parent was EUR 56.95 million, compared to EUR 68.82 million a year ago. Earnings per share were EUR 1.207, down from last year's EUR 1.429.

<http://www.rttnews.com/ArticleView.aspx?id=1226749&SMap=1>

Paddy Power plc Preliminary Results Announcement for the year to 31 December 2009 [company reporting article]

Commenting on the results Patrick Kennedy, Chief Executive, Paddy Power plc said 'Despite the economic problems, 2009 was a cracking year for Paddy Power punters on two fronts. The year saw a slew of punter-friendly sporting results which was the exact opposite to the experience of the prior year. Also, Paddy Power once again invested heavily in bringing unsurpassed value to our customers through a range of 'stand out' offers. This focus on value saw the Group drive up turnover and enhance market share across all channels by competing aggressively and attracting and retaining a record number of customers.

<http://www.londonstockexchange.com/exchange/prices-and-news/news/market-news/market-news-detail.html?announcementId=10393717>

US news

Alcohol sales lift resorts' spirits, but fewer free drinks given out

Las Vegas - Booze was still big business on the Strip last year, with visitors drinking their way through the recession even as they spent less on hotel rooms, gambling and eating, state figures show. The beverage departments of the Strip's 38 largest casinos reported increases in revenue and profit amid the worst year for the casino business on record, according to the Gaming Control Board's annual review of Nevada casinos' financial performance.

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/mar/01/alcohol-sales-lift-resorts-spirits/>

Boyd Gaming Q4 Loss Narrows Significantly [noteworthy article]

Las Vegas - Boyd Gaming Corp. said its fourth-quarter net loss narrowed significantly to \$1.0 million or \$0.01 per share from \$220.8 million or \$2.51 per share in the prior year period. Adjusted earnings for the quarter dropped to \$0.20 million from \$11.41 million in the year-ago period. Adjusted earnings per share for the recent quarter was break even compared with \$0.13 per share in the earlier period.

<http://www.rttnews.com/ArticleView.aspx?id=1226981&SMap=1>

Boyd Gaming Reports Fourth Quarter, Year-End Results [company reporting article]

Las Vegas -Boyd Gaming Corporation reported financial results for the fourth quarter and full year ended December 31, 2009. For the quarter, we reported a net loss of \$1.0 million, or \$0.01 per share, compared to a net loss of \$220.8 million, or \$2.51 per share, in the same period last year.

Adjusted Earnings(1) for the fourth quarter 2009 were \$0.2 million, or less than \$0.01 per share, compared to \$11.4 million, or \$0.13 per share, for the same period in 2008.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=95703&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1397344&highlight=>

Black Gaming LLC files bankruptcy

Nevada - Mesquite casino operator Black Gaming LLC filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy late Monday, a move the company foretold to investors just before Christmas. The filing with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Las Vegas, where Black Gaming is headquartered, will allow the company to continue operations under current management. Payments to vendors will continue without interruption, company officials said.

<http://www.lvj.com/business/black-gaming-llc-files-bankruptcy--cuts-debt-85904547.html>

Group says fixing Atlantic City starts with Boardwalk

Atlantic City - Amid one of the worst economic situations this city has faced, there have been big ideas for change. Deregulation of the casino industry, eliminating layers of bureaucracy, accelerated efforts to improve city roads — the list goes on and will continue to as more people get involved. But most of the public and private officials making the suggestions agree with one fundamental truth: Reinvigorating Atlantic City starts with the Boardwalk.

http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/breaking/article_dd5c16a2-24a3-11df-9995-001cc4c002e0.html

Casino suits grow

Atlantic City - Bridgeton attorneys have filed four new lawsuits against Harrah's Resort Atlantic City. The latest complaints brings the grand total to 19 lawsuits filed against Harrah's by local attorneys Tom Seeley and Ted Baker, representing men and women in South Jersey. The lawsuits, the earliest of which were filed last year, claim the worldwide gaming giant violated laws against discrimination at their Atlantic City location by ignoring alleged sexually charged and abusive behavior by managers at "The Pool" bar and elsewhere in the resort and casino between 2007 and 2009.

<http://www.nj.com/bridgeton/index.ssf?/base/news-8/1267506635243340.xml&coll=10>

Are VLTs in NJ's future? Depends who you ask

Atlantic City - Senate President Steve Sweeney's recent blunt declaration about proposals to install video lottery terminals at the state's racetracks --- "It ain't happening," he told an audience of Atlantic County business leaders --- sets up a potential clash of wills, competing legal opinions and executive branch versus legislative branch litigation should the Christie Administration choose to pursue the idea.

http://blog.nj.com/njv_carl_golden/2010/03/are_vlts_in_njs_future_depends.html

Las Vegas Sands not putting Pa. casino up for sale

Pennsylvania - Casino operator Las Vegas Sands Corp. says it isn't selling its Sands Casino Resort Bethlehem in Pennsylvania that opened in May. Sands, led by billionaire Sheldon Adelson, called a report about the possibility "unfounded" on Monday. The company said it could resume building a hotel there in several weeks.

http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/03/01/business-specialized-consumer-services-us-las-vegas-sands-bethlehem_7395808.html?partner=alerts

With Table Games Near, Sands Bethlehem Mobilizes Construction Forces for Hotel Tower

Pennsylvania - Las Vegas Sands Corp. said that recent rumors of the company's supposed interest in selling its Sands Casino Resort Bethlehem property, or indefinitely delaying the completion of the hotel and other components of the development, are unfounded and contrary to that, the company has already mobilized its development team in the region and could restart

construction on the 300-room hotel tower within the next several weeks, or as soon as subcontractors are lined up and activated.

<http://investor.lasvegassands.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=447854>

Casino Mogul Steve Wynn Discusses Phila. Foxwoods Project

Pennsylvania - Las Vegas casino mogul Steve Wynn is expected to make the trip east this week to tell state gaming regulators about his plans to take over the Foxwoods project on the South Philadelphia waterfront. Wynn gave some details of plans to stock analysts who took part in a conference call, saying he does not plan to build a hotel in Philadelphia: "It's not going to be a hotel, it's going to be the cutest casino that you've ever seen. It's not going to look like slots in a box. It is going to have a very definite 'Wynn' signature presentation."

<http://www.kyw1060.com/pages/6466667.php?contentType=4&contentId=5663568>

Meadows casino eyes July 4 start for table games

Pennsylvania - The Meadows Racetrack & Casino in Washington County has formally petitioned the state Gaming Control Board to add table games. In its petition, the casino is asking the gaming board for permission to install 68 table games to supplement its 3,700 slot machines. The filing was a required step in advance of the introduction of blackjack, poker and other table games in Pennsylvania casinos.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10060/1039482-100.stm?cmpid=localstate.xml>

Agency seeks more STAFF to regulate state's new table games

Pennsylvania - State gambling regulators want to hire more than 50 employees to oversee everything from the counting of table games money to handling background license checks for dealers. Salaries for 54 new personnel is a big part of the Gaming Control Board's request to lawmakers for a \$3.6 million - or 10.8 percent - increase in its budget next year. The oversight agency currently employs 305 people. "Table games are going to be much more labor-intensive," Chairman Gregory Fajt told the Senate Appropriations Committee on Monday.

<http://citizensvoice.com/news/agency-seeks-more-staff-to-regulate-state-s-new-table-games-1.650805?localLinksEnabled=false>

Gambling expansion proposals target Mich. ballot

Michigan - Two proposals that would expand gambling in Michigan have had preliminary reviews by a state elections board. The Board of State Canvassers approved the form of petitions for the groups at a Friday meeting. Sponsors of each of the efforts still would have to gather more than 300,000 voter signatures in order to qualify for the November ballot.

<http://www.wlaj.com/news/proposals-18865-gambling-mich.html>

Voters may get chance to approve VLTs in the Meadowlands

New Jersey - Democrats in the state Assembly announced, March 1, that they will soon introduce legislation calling for the addition of video lottery terminals at the Meadowlands Racetrack in East Rutherford. The proposed bill would not take immediate effect if passed; instead, it would leave the decision up to voters.

http://leadernewspapers.net/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=12279&new_topic=18

Is Aqueduct VLT Deal in Jeopardy Again?

New York - In a new and major sign the Aqueduct video lottery terminal project could be in jeopardy, Gov. David Paterson is no longer counting on the winning bidder to supply the cash-starved state with \$300 million by end of the current fiscal year March 31.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/55629/is-aqueduct-vlt-deal-in-jeopardy-again>

Electronic bingo bill highly anticipated in State Senate

Alabama - The big question at the statehouse: will electronic bingo come up in the Alabama State Senate? Under a revised proposal from Russellville Senator Roger Bedford, all gaming

operations will be taxed at 27%. Of that, 20% would be split between the education budget and Medicaid plus other senior services. 5% would go counties with no electronic bingo. 2% will go schools with electronic gaming.

<http://www.myfoxdal.com/Global/story.asp?S=12067661>

DeLeo says gambling bill out in 2-3 weeks

Massachusetts - House Speaker Robert DeLeo said that a bill sanctioning expanded gambling in the Bay State is likely to be released in a "two- or three-week period" and that the House would likely debate it in late March or early April.

<http://www.itemlive.com/articles/2010/03/02/news/news11.txt>

Other International news

Tatts pays \$850m for NSW lotteries

Australia - NSW sold its lotteries business to Tatts Group today for a price that exceeded most analysts' expectations and was "by far" the strongest bid for the business, according to the state's Treasurer. Tatts said it would pay \$850 million in cash for the license and purchase of the state lotteries, but analysts said the market was expecting a deal in the range of \$600m to \$700m.

http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/industry-sectors/tatts-pays-850m-for-nsw-lotteries/story-e6frg98o-1225836125192?from=marketwatch_rss

Double trouble for online gambling [lengthy article]

South Africa – The number of South Africans gambling online is set to grow as cellphones become a more popular way of surfing the Internet, but the activity is still illegal in SA, despite a grey area in the law. Government is currently reviewing gambling legislation, and this could make provision for interactive gambling, but this process is only expected to be concluded later this year. At the moment, the official position is that online gambling is illegal.

http://www.itweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30842:double-trouble-for-online-gambling&catid=182:legal-view

Boardwalk revenue down 7% due to 'difficult conditions'

South Africa - The Boardwalk on Port Elizabeth's beachfront continues to experience "difficult trading conditions", Sun International reports, with a decline in revenue of 7% to R202-million. The figures for the six months to the end of December last year company reported a 2% increase in revenue. Sun International chief executive David Coutts-Trotter said that continuing pressure on consumer disposable income had caused a drop in comparable gaming revenue of 3%.

<http://www.weekendpost.co.za/business/article.aspx?id=536621>

Responsible Gambling Council (RGC) launching Know the Score (kts2) program, targets Saskatchewan students

Canada - In order to create more awareness amongst post-secondary students that gambling isn't always glamorous and can lead to problems, the Responsible Gambling Council (RGC) will be launching its Know the Score (kts2) program on campuses throughout Saskatchewan.

<http://www.leaderpost.com/health/Responsible+Gambling+Council+launching+Know+Score+kts2+program+targets+Saskatchewan+students/2628705/story.html>

Gambling Boys [interesting article]

Canada - Welcome to the first generation of teens that has grown up in a time of legalized gambling, with a computer in just about every home, with online poker just a click away. Whether rolling the dice on the playground, betting on the outcome of the next game between classes or staying up all night to play poker online, gambling is surprisingly an everyday part of the lives of many teens. Gambling Boys dives in to the world of teen gambling, a world that offers excitement, the potent allure of making big money, and as many are discovering, the potential for serious addiction problems.

<http://www.cbc.ca/documentaries/passionateeyeshowcase/2010/gamblingboys/>

Gaming Congress planned for Colombia

Colombia - The fourth International Gaming Congress, CIJUEGO, is to be held in Bogota, Colombia, on April 21 and 22 to coincide with the Andean Gaming Trade Show, FADJA.

<http://www.intergameonline.com/intergame/news/3548/gaming-congress-planned-for-colombia/>

Supplier & Technology news

Bowler Hits \$10.4 Million Megabucks MegaJackpot at Reno-Tahoe International Airport

John W. Johnson of Denver, Colo. hit a \$10,422,754.08 Megabucks(R) MegaJackpot(R) at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport on Sunday, February 21, 2010.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=119000&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1397044&highlight=>

Denver bowler wins \$10 million jackpot at Reno airport

A Denver bowler man won \$10 million today after putting \$12 into a slot machine as soon as he landed at the Reno airport. John W. Johnson, 36, told officials he came to Reno with his wife and teammates for the U.S. Bowling Congress open championship that started this weekend. He said he had just left a Southwest Airlines flight, walked over to a machine and put in \$20. ... The statewide Megabucks network of progressive jackpot machines was developed by International Game Technology.

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20100221/NEWS/100221030/Denver-bowler-wins--10-million-jackpot-at-Reno-airport>

Scientific Games Announces Fourth Quarter and Full Year Results

Scientific Games Corporation announced results for the fourth quarter and full year ended December 31, 2009. Revenue totalled \$232.9 million for the fourth quarter and \$927.7 million for the full year. The Company reported a net loss of \$50.1 million in the fourth quarter, after giving effect to after-tax charges totaling \$45.2 million, primarily related to the non-cash write-down of assets associated with the Company's proposed sale of its Racing and Venue Management businesses, the non-cash impairment of certain Lottery Systems contracts and transaction- and restructuring-related expenses.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/scientific-games-announces-fourth-quarter-and-full-year-results-2010-03-01?siteid=nbkh>

Scientific Games posts surprise Q4 loss, shares fall

Lottery operator Scientific Games Corp posted a surprise fourth-quarter loss, hurt by lower instant ticket and service revenue, sending its shares down as much as 10 percent. "Results were quite messy due to a number of charges but core operations were below our estimates," analyst Robert Evans of Craig-Hallum Capital said. Instant ticket revenue fell 11.4 percent, while service revenue fell 8 percent, the company said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSSGE6200DQ20100301>

Gaming Standards Association Tells Operators How They Can Attract More Players

This year the Gaming Standards Association is asking operators key questions, hoping to spark a dialogue about how operators can prepare for the future. This month, GSA is asking the question at the forefront of every operator's mind: "How can you attract more players?" The answer? Give players what they want across your entire operation. Now, thanks to the work of GSA members, giving players what they want is possible.

Gaming Standards Association Tells Operators How They Can Attract More Players

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/gaming-standards-association-tells-operators-how-they-can-attract-more-players-2010-03-01?siteid=nbkh>

Interactive Gaming news

CryptoLogic Announces Full Year 2009 Results [company reporting article]

CryptoLogic, a global developer of branded online betting games and Internet casino software, announced its financial results for the three months and full year ended December 31, 2009. With highlights including revenue decreased to \$39.8 million (2008: \$61.5 million) reflecting lower wagering activity across the industry, adverse currency factors, and a reduced contribution from a key licensee. Net loss of \$35.5 million (2008: \$32.7 million), reflecting \$24.8 million non-recurring charges for asset impairments and restructuring to align the company's costs with its revenue base.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/cryptologic-announces-full-year-2009-results-2010-03-02-20450?siteid=nbkh>

CryptoLogic revenues fall to \$39.8m [important article]

Online betting games and web-based casino software specialist CryptoLogic saw full year revenue fall to \$39.8m in the year to the end of December. The firm said this was down from \$61.5m in 2008 and reflected lower wagering activity across the industry, adverse currency factors, and a reduced contribution from a key licensee.

<http://www.bfnnews.com/display/?id=3791083§ionId=standardNews>

CryptoLogic Posts Narrower Q4 Loss

Internet gaming software developer CryptoLogic Tuesday said fourth-quarter loss narrowed from the previous year, helped by lower expenses, despite a fall in revenues. The company's net loss and comprehensive loss for the fourth quarter narrowed to US\$24.82 million or US\$1.97 per share from US\$25.97 million or US\$2.05 per share in the prior-year period.

<http://www.rttnews.com/Content/CanadianNews.aspx?Id=1226751&Category=Canadian%20News&SimRec=1&Node=>

OnlinePokerNetwork Launches on the Connective Games Software Platform

OnlinePokerNetwork has today announced the launch of its poker operation which has successfully integrated onto the Connective Games LLC poker software platform. The poker network has been designed with small to medium sized poker sites in mind and will offer

customers that are "new to market" access to a global poker network and a wide range of poker games for players to access.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/onlinepokernetwork-launches-on-the-connective-games-software-platform-2010-03-01?siteid=nbkh>

Feds investigate Naples man in money laundering probe tied to online gambling

Bank employees began getting suspicious when they saw many large checks issued by a Naples man's company, according to an ongoing federal investigation. When questioned, customers cashing them explained the MCM Capital Management checks were payments from Internet Poker gambling winnings. When bank tellers and managers saw millions of dollars in wire transfers going in and out of Michael Olaf Schuett's bank accounts, many shut down accounts for the hundreds of companies he owns after discovering they were linked to gambling, federal documents say.

<http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2010/feb/28/feds-investigate-naples-man-money-laundering-probe/?partner=RSS>