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## GGI / LSI - European Conference in Malta

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### Local Multidisciplinary - Global Client Service

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The success of the European Conference of Geneva Group International (GGI) & Lawspan International (LSI) held recently in Malta augurs well on many levels.

GGI is a global network of law firms, accountants, auditors and management consultants, with more than 150 members in 260 offices and over 8,000 employees worldwide. Member firms are well established, high quality independent firms with years of experience in their respective business area. Members' clients include multi-national listed corporations, medium sized companies and family holdings.

Over 100 delegates hailing from over 30 different countries participated in this prestigious 3-day Conference. Apart from the detailed delegates programme, a special social program was organized for the additional 35 partners who had the opportunity to experience the best of Malta's historical sites.

GGI is exclusively represented in Malta by CREDAL Solutions Ltd., a multidisciplinary firm, jointly managed by Dr Robert D'Alessandro of D'Alessandro & Associates a specialized Tax & Trust law practice firm based in Merchants Street, Valletta and Kevin Mifsud of kmconsultants, a business advisory services firm based in Thornton Street, Sliema.


The Conference, held at the Malta Hilton (14-17th April), was opened by Kevin Mifsud who welcomed all members to Malta and highlighted the benefits of networking and benefits of increased cooperation between the legal and accounting professions. Dr Robert D'Alessandro addressed the Conference the next day, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a personal approach to international business enhanced by common due diligence and anti-laundering standards.

The President of GGI, Dr Anton Blatter outlined the challenges faced by the organization and the strategic objectives of the Conference. Professor Joe Bannister, Chairman and President of the Malta Financial Services Authority then presented Malta as a Finance Centre, outlining the island's expertise in international business support and the new benefits of EU status.

The key note speaker was Major General (ret) Peter Regli, former director of Swiss Intelligence who spoke about Intelligence as our first line of defense. Amongst the members present for the conference was Mr Detlef Bischoff, Consul of Malta in Magdeburg.

Saturday gala night was held at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, impeccably organized by Island Caterers. The stunning venue and setting presented GGI's members and guests with a blend of history and atmosphere that was indeed





impressive.

In his address, Parliamentary Secretary of Finance, Honorable Tonio Fenech, spoke about the emphasis being placed on strategically positioning Malta as a key professional service provider and business broker in the new highly competitive Europe.

CREDAL Solutions and GGI thanked all present for attending the conference, with a special thank you to the MFSA, Bank of Valletta plc, and ANKER Bank for their unstinting support of the event. The next GGI/LSI conference shall be held in Dubai in November 2005.