

SMALL-CAPS: SOLAR INTEGRATED WARMS TO WAL-MART POSSIBILITIES

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***Solar Integrated Technologies**, the California solar roofing group, rose sharply yesterday on hopes that it could benefit from Wal-Mart's plan to convert many of its 6,000-plus stores to run on renewable energy. The world's largest retailer has asked for proposals from suppliers who can provide the technology. Having last week won a contract to fit a solar roof to Tesco's new US distribution centre in California, dealers said Solar Integrated was a front runner for the Wal-Mart contract. Solar Integrated shares have begun to recover after falling sharply last year amid worries over its financial health. These concerns eased last month with a £10m fundraising. Solar Integrated rose 24.4 per cent to 76½p.

*The Lloyd's of London insurance sector came under pressure as dealers reacted to news that the Florida senate had passed a bill to help property insurers buy additional cover at reduced prices. UBS said the move could cut total premiums by up to \$2bn. **Hiscox** lost 6.7 per cent to 247½p, **Amlin** fell 6 per cent to 304p and **Catlin** eased 1 per cent to 500½p. **Benfield**, the insurance broker, dropped 2.3 per cent to 335p amid fears that it too could be affected.

***AorTech International**, which is developing a type of polymer technology that can be used in breast implants, gained 5 per cent to 525p amid rumours the Australia-based group was close to a significant tie-up in the US.

***ISoft** rose 11.1 per cent to 55p on reports that a shortlist of three bidders had been lined up for the healthcare company.

*There was heavy volume of more than 7m shares in **Metnor**, the galvanising company that moved into the property services sector, up 0.9 per cent to 405p. It is understood that John and Alan Rankin, co-founders of the company and the brothers of the chief executive, sold a large tranche of stock worth £15m. The shares are said to have been picked up by more than a dozen blue-chip institutions.

***Solomon Gold** firmed up 2.3 per cent to 22½p after the mining group made a "significant" gold and copper discovery at Sutakiki in the Solomon Islands. Evolution Securities reiterated a "buy" rating and a hefty 64p price target.

***Allergy Therapeutics** gained 9.8 per cent to 112½p on news that the drug developer had begun Phase III trials of its grass allergy treatment.

*News of record profits and an increase in its dividend sent **Domino Printing Sciences** 5.9 per cent higher to an all-time peak of 347p.