

By Kevin Feddy

NetServices post maiden profit

Shares in IT services minnow NetServices gained almost six per cent after the Salford-based company posted its first profit since it floated just over two years ago.

NetServices, whose clients include accountancy firm Mazars and Prime Time Recruitment, made profits of £3,000 for the six months to the end of February, compared with the losses of £620,000 for the same period last year. Chief executive Mark Vickers said a fall in revenues from £4m to £3.7m was offset by improved margins.

The AIM-listed firm's shares rose 0.5p to 9p, giving it a market value of more than £2.5m.

NetServices, which employs 50 people at its base on Waters Edge Business Park, floated in March 2006 but saw its share price collapse from a high of 80p following a fierce broadband price war.

Staff numbers have been halved and the firm sold a subsidiary last summer as bosses sought to cut costs.

Mr Vickers said ventures with other businesses in areas such as video conferencing have boosted its performance.

Chairman Chris Townsend said the firm's progress demonstrated its resilience and ability to adapt to changing market conditions.

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