

## Powerchex set for 'Explosive Growth'

Alexandra Kelly and Powerchex named as likely success stories in 2010

**London, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010.** Powerchex has been picked as one of the brightest and most up and coming businesses by Women Unlimited, the UK's fastest growing organisation focussed on supporting female entrepreneurs.

Julie Hall is the founder and editor of Women Unlimited, and has selected Powerchex as a company with what it takes to succeed in the current economic climate, and a company to watch in 2010. The pre-employment screening firm was described as 'already very successful, but...set for explosive growth'.

Alexandra Kelly is the founder and managing director of Powerchex. A former New York banker and operational risk expert, she started the company in 2005 after realising there was a gap in the market.

*"The pre-employment screening sector in the USA is fairly well established but there was only a few firms operating in the UK at the time, and service levels across the industry were poor. I decided that I would set up a company that tailored its service to financial organisations, while offering a much better standard of customer service that our competitors could match."*

It is a model that seems to work. In 2005, Alexandra Kelly had just one member of staff and one desk. Now Powerchex has more than 400 financial clients, including many of the world's biggest names, and more than 50 employees.

*"The recession devastated this industry," continues Kelly. "And as a firm that relies on recruitment levels in the financial sector, we should have been harder hit than most. However, our business model has come through: even while recruitment levels were falling, we were gaining more and more new clients through word of mouth alone. This means that while many of our competitors are still struggling coming out of the recession, we are as busy as ever! These are extremely exciting times for Powerchex..."*

-ENDS-

## NOTES TO EDITORS:

### About Powerchex

Powerchex is the UK's premier pre-employment screening firm for financial institutions. Based in the City of London, Powerchex checks the background, employment history, criminal records and professional qualifications of applicants on behalf of financial institutions. It sets the industry benchmark of 5 days for a background check.

[www.powerchex.co.uk](http://www.powerchex.co.uk).

### Basis for selection by Women Unlimited:

“The businesses we have picked are founded or co-founded by women. They are all relatively new organisations that have been conceived and launched in the last five years. All have achieved some degree of success already, but they are our picks for growth and business success in 2010. They are a mix of established start-ups and up and coming businesses, and we think each of these companies have explosive growth potential ahead of them.”