REED BUSINESS INFORMATION

TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER!

Once again RBI workers find out about the future of their company from the media over breakfast unlike their Dutch counterparts. The same thing happened when the two companies came together to form Reed Elsevier.

Stock Exchange rules have been shown time and again as just an excuse.

But whereas the previous announcement led to relative stability this time around the world of work has changed big time.

RBI has remained the only significant part of the RE empire to rely upon advertising revenues. And the down-turn in the economic outlook, the price commanded by EMAP and the view of senior RE management that print is the past and ad sales too susceptible to market conditions has led them to this decision.

Will the new owner maintain terms and conditions especially the redundancy terms?

Will the new owner maintain the Pension Fund?

Will it even be one owner or will it be broken up?

Will it involve relocation/site closures?

Will it be bought just for titles?

Will the new owner(s) already have finance, administration, marketing and sales operations?

Will the owner(s) be publishers or private equity? Private equity takes no prisoners as we have seen in many well-publicised cases.

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The RE CEO Davis has said it might take a long time to be sold but EMAP did not hang about. And, besides, in the meantime RE will not be using any capital investment to grow products in RBI.

In the case of Reed Harcourt last year various cost-cutting exercises were effected to make the operation more attractive.

When companies are sold UK laws are renowned for being some of the weakest in Europe for protecting working people. It is easier to get rid of people and to reduce terms and conditions of employment in the UK. The law will assist but you need to get organised about it now.

CHECK OUT THE UNITE WEBSITE TODAY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGULARLY UPDATED FOR ALL REED EMPLOYEES.

WHO SPEAKS FOR THE WORKERS' INTERESTS? UNITE DOES!

Unite has 2 million members with the combined strength of AMICUS and the T&G. Terms and conditions of employment as well as job security are won and lost in the workplace not courtrooms. Get organised and join Unite today by visiting

www.unitetheunion.com/rbi

At £2.30 per week it has never been so cheap to get a big friend on your side!

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