

# **The Third Forestry Growth Plan Plc.**

(Incorporated in Ireland under the Companies Acts 1963 to 2005, Registration No 439435)

***Creating Sustainable Wealth through the Development of Natural Resources***

## **Offering Document**

Placing of up to 3,333 Redeemable *Preference Shares* of €750 each

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007

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This *Offering Document*, has not been prepared in accordance with the Directive 2003/71/EC on prospectuses or any measures made under that Directive or the laws of Ireland or of any EU Member State or EEA treaty adherent state that implement that Directive or those measures. Nor has this *Offering Document* been reviewed, prior to its being issued, by any regulatory authority in Ireland or in any other EU Member State or EEA treaty adherent state and therefore may not contain all the information required where a document is prepared pursuant to that Directive or those laws. A copy of this *Offering Document* has been delivered for registration to the Registrar of Companies (having attached thereto copies of the material contracts referred to on page 19 and any experts' letters of consent) in compliance with section 47 of the Companies Act, 1963 of Ireland.

*Investors* are advised to take independent advice from a professional advisor before making any investment. This proposal should be evaluated in conjunction with the key assumptions on page 15 and risks on page 8.

The *Directors*, whose names appear on page 7, take responsibility for the information contained in this *Offering Document* and have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts contained herein are true and accurate in all material respects and that there are no material facts, the omission of which would make misleading any statement herein, whether of fact or opinion.

Applications to participate in *The Company* must be made on the terms of this *Offering Document* and on the application form contained herein. Applications must reach the registered office of *The Company* by no later than 5.30pm on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2007 and the right is reserved to close the application list at any time before that date. In the event of over subscription, the over-subscribing applicants will be refunded in full.

A copy of *The Company's* Memorandum & Articles of Association along with all relevant expert letters and valuations are available for inspection at the Registered Office of *The Company*.

Investments may fall as well as rise in value. Past performance may not be a reliable guide to future performance. Before subscribing to *The Company*, *Investors* are advised to consult their Accountant, Bank Manager, Stockbroker, Solicitor, tax or other professional advisor, having regard to the nature of the investment, the risks, their own financial circumstances and their tax position.

# Contents

<b>DEFINITIONS</b>	3
<b>SUMMARY</b>	
Executive Summary	5
The Company	5
Investment Proposal and Return	6
Tax Status of Investment	6
Directors, Management Team & Advisors	7
<b>RISK FACTORS</b>	8
<b>SECTION A FEATURES OF THE INVESTMENT</b>	
Introduction	10
Principal Markets	10
Revenue Sources	11
Opportunity	12
Investment Policy	12
Proceeds of Placing	12
Advantages of Investing in the Company	12
The Company	13
Project Timescale	14
Forest Management Strategy	15
Returns & Key Assumptions	15
Exit Mechanisms	17
Tax Liability	17
<b>SECTION B GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	
Share Capital	18
Legal & Arbitration Proceedings	18
Capitalisation & Indebtedness	18
Board Practices	18
Material Contracts	19
Directors' Remuneration	19
Reports to Investors	19
Accountants' Report	20
<b>SECTION C APPLICATION PROCEDURE</b>	
Procedure and Conditions for Application	21
Application Form	22

## Definitions

Certain words and phrases used in this *Offering Document* are defined below.

<b>“Afforestation Grants”</b>	means the grants payable by the <i>Forest Service</i> for the development and afforestation of bare lands.
<b>“Closing Date”</b>	means the closing date for receipt of application for <i>Preference Shares</i> is 5.30pm on the 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2007.
<b>“Directors”</b>	means the Directors of <i>The Company</i> .
<b>“Forest Management Consultant”</b>	means a company recognised within the <i>Forestry</i> industry as being technically competent in forest management whose officers are professionally recognised by the Society of Irish Foresters.
<b>“Forest Premia”</b>	means annual amounts paid by the <i>Forest Service</i> to the owner of land under afforestation, in this case, <i>The Company</i> .
<b>“Forest Service”</b>	means the government department set up to administer <i>Forestry</i> in Ireland.
<b>“Forestry”</b>	means Commercial Forestry and the occupation of which as defined by the Finance Act, 1969.
<b>“Forestry Contractor”</b>	means an independent contractor who is experienced in the establishment and management of forest woodlands.
<b>“Forest Management Plan”</b>	A plan which describes the composition of the forestry properties and includes a work plan and timber production forecast setting out when operations are to occur in order to maximise returns to <i>Investors</i> .
<b>“Harvest(ed / ing)”</b>	means felling trees in a forest in line with the <i>Forest Management Plan</i> including the clearfelling and thinning of forests
<b>“Inflation”</b>	means an aggregate assumed rate of inflation incorporating the Consumer Price Index, the Wholesale Price Index, Forestry and Land Demand Pull inflation and other impacting market driven indices.
<b>“Investor(s)”</b>	means a fully paid up subscriber(s) to the <i>Preference Shares</i> of <i>The Company</i> .
<b>“IFS”</b>	means I.F.S. Asset Managers Limited.

***“Irish Forestry Funds”***

The Second Irish Forestry Fund Plc  
The Third Irish Forestry Fund Plc  
The Fourth Irish Forestry Fund Plc  
The Fifth Irish Forestry Fund Plc  
The Sixth Irish Forestry Fund Plc  
The Seventh Irish Forestry Fund Plc  
The Forestry Investment Plan plc  
The Second Forestry Investment Plan Plc  
The Third Forestry Investment Plan Plc  
The Fourth Forestry Investment Plan Plc

means the following list of companies

The Fifth Forestry Investment Plan Plc  
The Sixth Forestry Investment Plan Plc  
The Seventh Forestry Investment Plan Plc  
The Eighth Forestry Investment Plan Plc  
The Ninth Forestry Investment Plan Plc  
The Tenth Forestry Investment Plan Plc  
The Eleventh Forestry Investment Plan Plc  
The Twelfth Forestry Investment Plan Plc  
The Forestry Growth Plan Plc  
The Second Forestry Growth Plan Plc

***“Ordinary Shares”***

means Ordinary Shares of €1 each in *The Company*.

***“Preference Shares”***

means Redeemable Preference Shares of €1 each held in Registered Format at the Registered Office of *The Company*.

***“Offering Document”***

means this Offering Document dated 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

***“The Company”***

means The Third Forestry Growth Plan Plc

## Summary

**This Summary should be read as an introduction to the *Offering Document* and any decision to invest in The Third Forestry Growth Plan Plc (“*The Company*”) should be based on consideration of the *Offering Document* as a whole by the *Investor*. *Investors* should familiarise themselves with the risks associated with this investment as outlined on page 8 of the *Offering Document*.**

### Executive Summary

*The Company* was incorporated on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2007 for the principal purpose of raising €2,499,750 from retail investors in the Irish republic for investment in predominantly semi-mature Irish woodlands. Monies raised, less initial costs, will be used to purchase these lands and to cover essential maintenance and management costs until *Harvesting* income is generated. These lands will be maintained for a period of approximately twelve years, after which time the standing timber and, subsequently, the lands will be sold and distributions will then be made to the *Investors*. Under existing legislation, to the extent that these distributions derive from profits from the sale of standing timber, they will be exempt from income and corporation tax. The *Preference Shares* will then be redeemed and *The Company* will subsequently be wound up.

*The Company* has been designed as a low risk, medium term, tax efficient investment. Returns from *Forestry* investment have historically exceeded inflation and are less volatile than international stock markets. However, *Investors* should be aware that past performance may not be a reliable guide to future performance.

The launch date for *The Company* is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2007. All applications for *Preference Shares* must be received by no later than 5.30pm on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2007. The minimum amount required to be raised from *Investors* to enable *The Company* to proceed with its plans is €750,000. In the event that the minimum amount has not been received subscription monies will be returned to the applicants, without interest, within fourteen days after the *Closing Date*.

A copy of *The Company*'s Memorandum & Articles of Association and financial models along with the Accountants' Report are available for inspection at the Registered Office of *The Company* .

### *The Company*

#### *Shareholding Details*

The authorised share capital of *The Company* is €43,333 divided into 40,000 *Ordinary Shares* of €1 each and 3,333 Redeemable *Preference Shares* of €1 each.

The *Preference Shares* will be sold at €750 each to raise €2,499,750 for *The Company* and are the only shares entitled to participate in the growth of the forest investment.

40,000 *Ordinary Shares* have been issued to I.F.S. Asset Managers Limited. These *Ordinary Shares* will not rank for dividend but will carry the voting rights to ensure the necessary decisions involving the management of *The Company* can be made.

#### *The Directors*

The *Directors* of *The Company* have considerable experience in *Forestry* investment, having already raised in excess of €49 million by way of share issue, from the *Irish Forestry Funds*, which added to grants received and *Forest Premia* receivable make these companies, holding over 16,800 acres, one of the largest private land-owning group of companies in Ireland.

The *Directors* will not receive remuneration from *The Company* in respect of their services as directors. The *Directors* of *The Company* are also directors of I.F.S. Asset Managers Limited with

whom a material contract has been entered into. The *Directors* are cognisant of the potential conflict of interest in their roles as directors of *The Company* and their roles within I.F.S. Asset Managers Limited. This has been addressed in the legal agreement between the companies and furthermore, the *Directors* have put in place a requirement that all decisions in relation to forest management must be referred to the *Forest Management Consultant*.

### ***Forest Management Strategy***

The land and forests will be purchased by *The Company* and managed on its behalf by I.F.S. Asset Managers Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of I.F.S. Irish Forestry Services Limited. Forest Enterprises Limited has been appointed *Forest Management Consultant* to ensure that the woodlands will be managed by experienced professionals with a view to maximising the value of the forests.

## **Investment Proposal and Return**

Investment in *The Company* is by way of *Preference Shares*. The minimum investment is €750. Multiple shares may be purchased. Shares may be purchased by *Investors* for themselves or for others e.g. children or grandchildren or in joint names. Except as required by law, *The Company* shall not recognise shares held on trust.

*Preference Shares* are the only shares that will rank for distribution. All profits made by *The Company* will be distributed to the Preference Shareholders at the end of the investment period, in approximately twelve years time when the standing timber and lands are sold. Distributions from profits from the sale of standing timber under current legislation are exempt from Income and Corporation Tax. The *Directors* will not be recommending a dividend or a distribution of any surplus during the investment period. The *Preference Shares* will then be redeemed and *The Company* will subsequently be wound up.

Based on the key assumptions set out on Page 15 of this *Offering Document* the Preference Shareholders should receive a distribution of 8.2% per annum compound on their original investment in twelve years time. Assuming *Inflation* to average 3.5% per annum, this equates to a real rate of return (i.e. net of *Inflation*) of 4.7% per annum. Whilst *The Company* has taken care to ensure that the assumptions used are reasonable based on historical trends and current forest management practice, past performance may not be a reliable guide to future performance. Future events and circumstances may cause actual results to vary from those projected.

## **Tax Status of Investment**

### ***The Company***

Profits from the occupation of woodland managed on a commercial basis are exempt from Income and Corporation Tax. *The Company* has been designed to take advantage of these provisions. Profits arising from the sale of the underlying lands may be taxable in accordance with tax legislation. Profits from the sale of the underlying land will constitute a small fraction of the total returns. Returns generated from other sources will be taxable.

### ***Investors***

Under current legislation distributions, to the extent that they represent profits made from the occupation of woodland managed on a commercial basis, are exempt from Income and Corporation Tax. To the extent that distributions are made out of non-exempt profits they will be taxable in the hands of the *Investor* and dividend withholding tax may also apply to the taxable portion of the distribution. However, in accordance with legislation introduced by the Finance Act 2006, where an *Investor* avails of reliefs or exemptions from tax in any year, which in aggregate exceed €250,000, a restriction of such reliefs may apply and in consequence not all of any distribution made from the profits derived from the occupation of woodland managed on a commercial basis may be treated as exempt. Any amount so disallowed may be carried forward for use in the following years.

## **Reports to *Investors***

*Investors* will receive an annual report comprising a review of the year based on the *Forest Management Consultants'* report and audited accounts.

A regularly updated web site will show the progress of *The Company*. This web site is located at [www.irish-forestry.ie](http://www.irish-forestry.ie).

## **Directors, Management Team & Advisors**

### **The *Directors***

#### **Paul Brosnan B.Sc. MA**

Paul Brosnan developed the market for the *Irish Forestry Funds* but began his career in corporate finance in Australia and commercial finance in Britain. He is Managing Director of *The Company*, and also of the *Irish Forestry Funds*. Mr Brosnan is also a director of I.F.S. Irish Forestry Services Limited and its subsidiary, I.F.S. Asset Managers Limited.

#### **Trevor McHugh BA.BS**

Trevor McHugh began his career in the financial services sector and subsequently joined I.F.S. Irish Forestry Services Limited as Operations Manager, from Ulster Bank. He is a *Director* of *The Company*, and also the *Irish Forestry Funds*. He is Managing Director of I.F.S. Asset Managers Limited and I.F.S. Irish Forestry Services Ltd.

The address of the *Directors* and the registered address of *The Company* is:  
Eblana House, Eblana Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

## **Advisors**

**I.F.S. Asset Managers Limited**, Eblana House, Eblana Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co Dublin

*IFS* is a wholly owned subsidiary of I.F.S. Irish Forestry Services Limited which was established in 1997. *IFS* manages the assets of the *Irish Forestry Funds* on behalf of 14,400 individual shareholders. *IFS* is responsible for land acquisition and ongoing management of *The Company's* assets. The provision of administrative, financial, statutory reporting and company secretarial services are included in *IFS's* role, along with promoting *The Company's* interest within the industry and the *Forest Service*. The *Directors* of *The Company* are also directors of *IFS*.

**Forest Enterprises Limited (FEL)**, Chapel Hill, Main Street, Lucan, Co Dublin

Established in 1990 to give independent advice to forest owners, investors and State bodies, FEL is a *Forest Service* approved company. Forest Enterprises Limited has been retained as the *Forest Management Consultant* to *The Company* and will provide professional services in the form of semi-mature *Forestry* acquisition and management.

In its capacity as *Forest Management Consultant*, FEL has prepared and takes responsibility for the financial modelling and has reviewed all aspects of *The Company's* proposed *Forestry* activities.

**Deloitte & Touche**, Chartered Accountants, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, will act as auditors and tax advisors to *The Company*.

**Lacy Walsh**, 77 Strand Road, Sandymount, Dublin 4, will act as solicitors to *The Company*.

**Ulster Bank Ireland Limited**, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, will act as bankers to *The Company*.

## **Risks Factors**

### **Fire Damage**

Although there have been relatively few forest fires in Ireland, it still remains a significant risk. The low level of forest fire incidence is indicative of the quality of scrub clearance and forest management insisted upon by the *Forest Service*. Historically, trees have been planted to minimise the risk of fire and whilst there will be extensive insurance on *The Company's* forests, and there is an EU funded reconstitution programme in the event of fire, significant fire damage will result in a loss in expected income from tree thinning and in profits from the sale of trees or replanted trees at the end of the investment period.

### **Disease**

Irish forests are considered to be among the healthiest in Europe, due mainly to our island status and the rigid enforcement of strict forest plant health regulations. This, coupled with a very strong management presence, should minimise this risk. However, significant occurrences of disease will result in additional expenditure being incurred and/or the loss of profits where remedial action including the premature felling of trees is required.

### **Weather**

One of the reasons why the chosen tree, "Sitka Spruce" grows so well in Ireland is due to our wet, mild climate. However, frost and wind damage are two potential problems. Both of these risks can be reduced by the careful selection of sites. Through knowledge and experience *The Company* will seek to minimise this risk by purchasing only the most suitable land.

### **Future Market**

The returns are based on selling semi mature woodlands at the end of twelve years, for which there is an emerging vibrant market. This market may not be as vibrant when the woodlands are sold at the investment's maturity date.

### **Inherent Risk**

*The Company* has taken care to ensure that the assumptions and projections are reasonable based on; current industry norms, historical trends and current forest management practice. However, past performance may not be a reliable guide to future performance as future events and circumstances may cause actual results to vary from those projected. The value of investments may fall as well as rise and *Investors* may not realise the full amount of their investment.

### **Tax Status**

The tax situation is based on tax legislation currently in force and changes to such legislation may arise in the future, which although unlikely could be applied retrospectively.

### **Grant Schemes**

There are very attractive grants available for *Forestry*. The *Forest Service* have proposed a new forestry programme for the period 2007 – 2013 which encompasses all *Forest Service* grant schemes. As of the date of this *Offering Document* some of these grant schemes have not been approved by the EU. The financial projections have therefore not included any un-approved grant schemes. The new grant rates will be reviewed periodically but they may not rise in line with costs in the future.

### **Public Liability**

Industry standard public liability insurance will be taken out and maintained by *The Company* on its properties to mitigate against the cost of public liability claims. Whilst *The Company* has taken care to ensure that the level of cover is reasonable based on current forest management practice,



significant levels of public liability claims will result in additional expenditure being incurred in insurance premia and claims.

### **Medium Term Investment**

*Investors* should be aware that investment in *The Company* should be viewed as an investment for the full investment period of approximately twelve years and while *Investors* may be able to dispose of their *Preference Shares* during this period, the price obtained may not reflect the underlying value of the *Preference Shares*.

### **Liquidity**

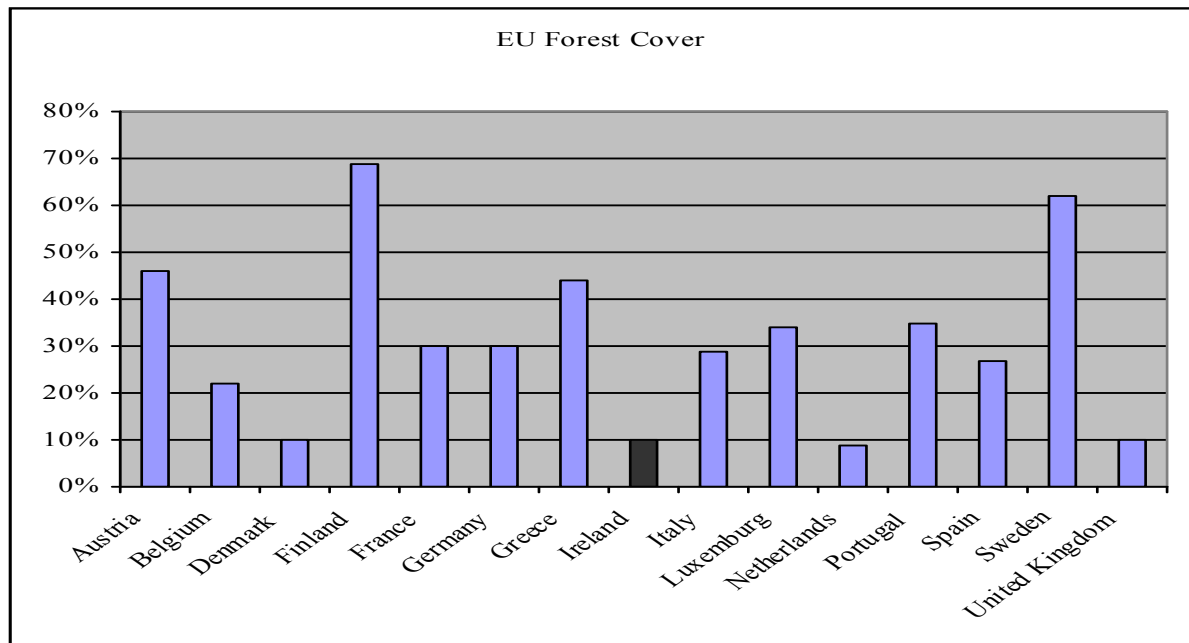
As a public limited company, shares can be traded at any time up to the maturity date of the investment. However, *Investors* should be aware that as *Preference Shares* will not be traded on the Irish or on another Stock Exchange it may be difficult for *Investors* to sell or realise their shareholding and/or obtain reliable information about their value or the extent of the risks to which *The Company* is exposed. The *Directors* give no undertaking to find a purchaser for these shares prior to maturity.

The risks listed above should not be considered as an exhaustive list of the risks which prospective *Investors* should consider before subscribing. *The Company* may be exposed to other risks of an exceptional nature from time to time.

## Section A Features of the Investment

### Introduction

Ireland was once covered with forests. Following the advent of the industrial revolution and an increase in farming activity, these forests were steadily and systematically cleared during the closing centuries of the last millennium. By 1910 only 1% of the country remained under forest cover.



Source: Growing for the future – A Strategic Plan for the Development of the Forestry Sector in Ireland .Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry - 1996 (data for Irish forest cover up-dated in 2004 – source *Forest Service*).

Today 10% of the country is covered with trees. Although a vast improvement, this should be considered in the context of an EU average of 38%.

Successive Irish governments have attempted to make *Forestry* more attractive by offering *Afforestation Grants*, *Forest Premia* and tax exemption on profits from the occupation of woodland for commercial *Forestry*. By actively pursuing a policy of afforestation, land can be used productively and profitably. This policy has shown considerable success with over 145,000 hectares of private sector new forest planting between 1988 and 2000 compared to just over 8,300 hectares in the preceding twelve years (*source – Forest Service*). There is now an emerging vibrant market for semi-mature woodlands and *The Company* will take advantage of this development.

Encouragingly, Ireland has some of the best climatic conditions for growing trees in Europe, and a large market for wood and forest products close by in the UK (which imports 85% of its timber requirement). Therefore, it makes sense for the EU to support the government's programme to accelerate the current rate of afforestation.

### Principal Markets

#### Overview

International timber demand is continuing to grow, driven by emerging economies such as China and India. This is set against a static forest area globally. A combination of increasing demand and static output from forests is likely to lead to a long-term increase in timber prices. In addition to this, recent concerns over the long term supply of oil and gas coupled with energy security and climate change has lead to renewed interest in timber both as a fuel and an environmentally benign building commodity. Commercial *Forestry* values are closely linked to timber prices and as timber prices

increase so too will asset values.

### **Timber production in Ireland**

Timber production from Irish *Forestry* amounted to 2.8 million cubic metres in 2005. This is set to rise gradually over the coming years. Most of the expected increase in production will come from the privately owned forests established over the last 20 years. The main products of forests are construction timber, pallet, packaging, fencing and pulp and panel board production.

### **Market Drivers for timber**

The house building boom in Ireland is feeding through into demand for timber frame houses, which developers now prefer to traditional methods owing to speed and quality of construction. This has led to higher demand for sawnwood and other forest products such as panel boards. Timber frame housing now accounts for approximately 30% of new homes in Ireland and this is set to increase with new advancements in timber frame technology in recent years. The bio-energy sector has also experienced strong growth in recent years. This has been backed by pro-active government policy. There has been strong demand for small roundwood from bio-energy facilities. Several bio-energy projects have been commissioned and the major peat burning power plant (Edenderry Power Plc) is initiating plans to co-fire peat with woodchip and other renewable sources. By 2015 this plant aims to substitute 200,000 tonnes of peat with renewable energy sources including wood chips.

### **Semi-mature Plantations**

The value of plantations has increased strongly in the last 2-3 years. There are several contributory factors. The recent increase in timber prices is a factor but this does not account for all of the strong growth. The recent rise in commodity prices globally is a pull factor for timber. Timber can be a substitute for oil and gas and energy intensive products such as plastics and metals. It is recognised by the UN as an environmentally friendly fuel, can also be made into bioplastic and its use for structural purposes is increasing. In a volatile property and equity market the predictable biological growth of *Forestry* is seen as attractive to investors. This increased investor interest coupled with a relatively small amount of *Forestry* coming on the market means that this trend is likely to continue into the future.

## **Revenue Sources**

The primary source of revenue during the investment period of *The Company* will be the sale of thinnings from *The Company's* forests along with *Forest Premia* and other related revenues. Thinning is a process that involves the *Harvesting* of a proportion of trees from a forest that allows the better performing trees room to grow and also reduces the competition for light and nutrients. All these thinnings will provide income to help finance *The Company* for the twelve year investment period and will be carried out in consultation with the *Forest Management Consultant*. All profits from these sources will be reinvested in *The Company*.

### **Additional Revenue Sources**

Whilst acquiring, planting and maintaining land and *Forestry* is the main activity of *The Company*, the *Directors* believe that further income may be derived from other activities such as site sales for development and other suitable activities. The *Directors* will endeavour to maximise the potential of these additional revenue sources for the benefit of the Preference Shareholders. However, the potential value of these additional revenue sources has been ignored in the projections on which this *Offering Document* is based as the opportunities will be specific to individual site locations.

## Opportunity

*The Company* is seeking to place 3,333 *Preference Shares*. The resulting €2,499,750 (less costs as outlined on page 16) will be used to purchase suitable *Forestry* land in Ireland with a proportion of funds being placed into a sinking fund as detailed below to provide for essential management costs. *The Company* will apply to the *Forest Service* for *Afforestation Grants* where appropriate. *Afforestation Grants* are currently assessed, approved and paid by the *Forest Service*. All land and *Forestry* will be assessed for suitability by the *Forest Management Consultant* prior to purchase.

## Investment Policy

The investment policy will be to secure a portfolio of productive and profitable semi-mature *Forestry* investments. These will be managed with a view to long term growth in asset value. However, some short term tax free income from *Forestry* thinnings will be sought. No distributions will be made during the investment period.

## Proceeds of Placing

Funds raised under this placing will be used to:

- a) Acquire semi mature *Forestry* of the necessary quality, by means of an arms length transaction, for *Forestry* investment purposes.
- b) Meet the initial costs which will comprise Commission (4%), Stamp duty (projected 1% on the acquisition of semi-mature *Forestry*), Professional fees and Marketing costs (2% of funds raised).
- c) As *The Company* is designed to take advantage of the exceptional value in semi-mature plantations, *Forest Premia* received from younger *Forestry* properties will not be sufficient to cover management and other essential costs. Therefore, a sinking fund of 13% of total monies raised less initial costs will be put in place to cover these essential management costs. The sinking fund is designed to ensure that *The Company's Forestry* assets are managed to the highest standards to maximise their value at the end of the investment period, and to cover audit, insurance and administrative expenses.

The minimum amount required to be raised from *Investors* to enable *The Company* to proceed with its plans is €750,000. In the event that the minimum amount has not been received subscription monies will be returned to the applicants, without interest, within fourteen days after the *Closing Date*.

## Advantages of Investing in *The Company*

Investment in *Forestry* through this *Company* has a number of advantages:

### 1. Rate of Return

Irish Forests are amongst the most productive and fastest growing in Europe. The Irish government's green paper "Growing for the Future – A Strategic Plan for the Development of the Forestry Sector in Ireland, 1996 issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry" estimated that the real rate of return from *Forestry* (Sitka spruce) is 5% including land cost and exclusive of grants and subsidies. The real value of rural property, especially site development potential can further increase the rate of return.

## **2. Low risk**

The *Investor* gains exposure to tangible property, which has been carefully selected by experts to maximise the potential of the *Forestry*. Investment in timber has historically proved to be less volatile than international stock markets. See page 8 for a more detailed outline of the risks associated with investment.

## **3. Tangibility**

Forests are tangible. *Investors* can see their investment grow and will be encouraged to view their woodlands, the location details of which will be provided to *Investors*. We request that when visiting these plantations, you treat them with the care and consideration that growing assets deserve.

## **4. Tax reliefs**

Under Section 232 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, profits from the occupation of woodland managed on a commercial basis are exempt from Income and Corporation Tax. Under section 140 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, distributions made from such profits are also exempt from Income and Corporation Tax. *The Company* is designed to take advantage of these provisions. However, in accordance with legislation introduced by the Finance Act 2006, where an *Investor* avails of reliefs or exemptions from tax in any year, which in aggregate exceed €250,000, a restriction of such reliefs may apply and in consequence not all of any distribution made from the profits derived from the occupation of woodland managed on a commercial basis may be treated as exempt. Any amount so disallowed may be carried forward for use in the following years.

## **5. Economies of Scale**

By investing in a portfolio of different properties, individuals can share in the substantial economies of scale associated with the acquisition, establishment and management of a block of woodlands. *Investors* share in a spread of expertly managed forest investments, thereby reducing risk.

## **6. Increase in Timber Demand**

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe forecast that the world's demand for timber products will nearly double by the year 2050. (*source: Timber Branch, UNECE – June 2004*)

## ***The Company***

*The Company* is a Public Limited Company established to take advantage of grants, *Forest Premia*, the tax favoured status of commercial *Forestry* in Ireland and the vibrant market in semi-mature *Forestry* that will be close to clearfell age at the end of the investment period. *The Company* allows *Investors*, at modest levels of investment, an opportunity to participate in an attractive investment where the profits will be distributed to them on a basis that will optimise the tax benefits under existing legislation. Monies received will be used to purchase suitable *Forestry* land in Ireland. Due to the competitive nature of the Irish land market, *The Company* cannot acquire or agree the purchase of land and *Forestry* until such time as the *Closing Date* has passed.

The *Directors* will endeavour to capitalise on the development potential of certain lands and existing woodlands, where appropriate, to maximise potential returns to the *Investors*.

The attraction of this investment is its simplicity and the fact that it is largely asset backed through land and *Forestry*. Monies contributed by the *Investors* will be used to purchase suitable *Forestry* land. For a once off investment of €750, based on the assumptions and subject to the risks outlined on pages 15 and 8 (which includes an assumption that *Inflation* will average 3.5% per annum over

the twelve years of *The Company*), the *Investor* should receive €1,931 when the lands are sold in approximately twelve years time.

Whilst *The Company* has taken care to ensure that the assumptions used are reasonable based on historical trends and current forest management practice, past performance may not be a reliable guide to future performance. Future events and circumstances may cause actual results to vary from those projected.

*Investors* will not be asked to contribute further amounts to *The Company*. Whilst *The Company* is empowered to borrow money without limit, under the normal course of business borrowing will be utilised only to meet the necessary overheads of managing the forests. At the date of this *Offering Document*, *The Company* has no borrowings nor has it entered or arranged borrowing facilities for the future.

Under the current *Forest Service Afforestation Grants* scheme a plantation must consist of 20% diverse species with a requirement for 10% broadleaf content, site permitting. The predominant species (80%) of tree is called “Sitka Spruce” which is the most popular tree planted in Ireland because it consistently produces high quality commercial timber in a relatively short rotation period. Existing plantations established under earlier grant schemes can consist of up to 100% Sitka Spruce. Among its uses are:

- Paper & Pulp
- Construction
- Posts & Fences
- MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard)
- OSB (Oriented Strand Board)
- Biomass

Ireland enjoys the presence of a number of state-of-the-art timber processing facilities. These include the Medite MDF factory in Clonmel, the Masonite factory in Leitrim and the Coillte OSB plant in Waterford. Over the past decade, significant investment has taken place in the Irish sawmilling industry.

*The Company* is offering prospective applicants the opportunity, through investing in *The Company*, to become part of a fast growing Irish industry with the potential for strong tax free returns.

## **Project Timescale**

Commercial *Forestry* in Ireland takes approximately thirty years to mature. Research indicates that this period of time is too long for some prospective *Investors* and hence the rationale behind the twelve-year Third Forestry Growth Plan Plc.

After approximately twelve years the standing timber and the lands will be sold with any profits being distributed to the Preference Shareholders. *The Company* will then be wound up. The twelve year period is approximate as it will depend on the speed at which *The Company* is wound up and the assets paid for in full by the purchaser.

This progressive and innovative plan is designed to facilitate *Forestry* investment for the general public by reducing the investment period to twelve years. In comparison with the forest industry in other countries, where a very advanced market for semi-mature woodlands exists, it is the opinion of the *Directors* and the *Forest Management Consultant* that Ireland is only beginning to develop this market. *The Company* will capitalise on further developments in the semi mature *Forestry* market in Ireland.

## Forest Management Strategy

*The Company* will purchase productive forest properties in Ireland subject to meeting criteria set down by the *Forest Management Consultant*.

The *Forest Management Consultant* will then prepare a *Forest Management Plan* which will aim to manage the forest properties with a view to long term growth in asset value and according to best forestry practice. The *Directors* believe this is necessary in order to provide for the long term financial requirements of the *The Company* and to maximise returns to the *Investors*. In the normal course of purchasing *Forestry* some remedial work may need to be carried out to maximise the asset value. This work will be covered within the *Forest Management Plan*.

The *Forest Management Consultant* will oversee the implementation of the *Forest Management Plan* which will be undertaken by fully qualified *Forestry* professionals. The *Forest Management Plan* will be reviewed periodically to assess work carried out to date, make adjustments for unforeseen events and to take advantage of new opportunities which are to the advantage of the *Investors*.

During the period of the *Forest Management Plan* most forests will be thinned to allow better performing trees room to grow. Income from these operations will be used to help finance *The Company* for the twelve year period.

## Returns and Key Assumptions

### Returns

*The Company* is designed to hold the *Forestry* assets for a twelve year period. It is the experience of The *Directors* and *Forest Management Consultant* that the optimum value in Irish *Forestry* today is in semi-mature woodlands. Once the required timeframe has expired, all *The Company's* assets will be sold on the open market. All profits from the sale of these assets plus any retained profits will then be distributed to the Preference Shareholders. *The Company* will then be wound up.

Based on the Key Assumptions set out below, a once off investment of €750 per share should result in distributions totalling €1,931 per share. To the extent that these distributions derive from profits from the sale of standing timber, they will be exempt from Income and Corporation Tax. This equates to a compound annual rate of return of 8.2% per annum.

Illustrative Returns*					
Number of Shares purchased	1	5	10	20	50
Initial Investment	€750	€3,750	€7,500	€15,000	€37,500
Projected Distribution in Year 12	€1,931	€9,655	€19,310	€38,621	€96,551

\*This Chart is for illustrative purposes only. It merely shows the returns on various amounts invested in *The Company* based on the key assumptions stated below.

## Key Assumptions

The key assumptions incorporate projections, which are based on historic data, including: tree growth rates, population growth, timber demand and *Inflation* rates. Because the projections cover a period of approximately twelve years the assumptions are necessarily more subjective than would be appropriate for a forecast. Whilst *The Company* has taken care to ensure that the assumptions used are reasonable based on historical trends and current forest management practice, future events and circumstances may cause actual results to vary from those projected.

- i. Existing woodlands will be purchased subject to rigid assessment and approval by the *Forest Management Consultant*.
- ii. The duration of *The Company* is approximately twelve years.
- iii. Initial costs will comprise Commission (4%), Stamp duty (projected at 1% on the acquisition of semi-mature *Forestry*), Professional fees and Marketing costs (2% of funds raised).
- iv. The following *Forestry* costs are assumed to be incurred.

	Cost	Grant Available	Grant as % of Cost
1) Forest Establishment	€3,375 per ha	€3,375 per ha	100%
2) Pruning (1 <sup>st</sup> lift)	€700 per ha	€700 per ha	100%
3) Roads	€1,350 per ha	€1,125 per ha	83%
4) Pruning (2 <sup>nd</sup> lift)	€825 per ha	€825 per ha	100%
5) Repair	€80 per ha	None Available	0%

- v. Assumed costs under the following headings have been included in the financial model:
  - 1) Management costs as laid out in the Material Contracts
  - 2) Audit fees
  - 3) Public liability and fire insurance
  - 4) Statutory company reporting fees
  - 5) General administrative overheads
- vi. The forest will be thinned when necessary by reference to the *Forest Management Consultant*.
- vii. *Forestry* costs and timber revenues, including those for thinnings, are based on expert technical data compiled by the *Forest Management Consultant*.
- viii. The standing timber and lands are sold at open market value.
- ix. *Inflation* is assumed to average 3.5% per annum for the duration of the investment period (approximately twelve years).
- x. The current *Forestry* grant schemes and tax status of *Forestry* will remain unchanged or that any changes will not affect the returns.
- xi. That the sinking fund will be sufficient to cover essential management fees and other necessary overheads up to year 9. Costs beyond this timeframe will be covered from *Harvesting* income.



## **Exit Mechanisms**

### ***Preference Share Distribution***

*The Company* will be maintained for approximately twelve years, at which point the *Forestry* will be yielding income from timber sales and will be close to clearfell age. As such, it will be a valuable and productive *Forestry* portfolio which will yield significant timber revenues into future years for potential purchasers.

The standing timber and the lands will then be sold to the highest bidder. Distributions will then be made to the Preference Shareholders. *The Company* will then be wound up. Preference Shareholders will be given the option of first refusal to reinvest the proceeds of this investment into a new *Forestry* investment company where this option becomes available.

### **Market for *Preference Shares***

As a public limited company, shares can be traded at any time up to the maturity date of the investment. As *Preference Shares* will not be traded on the Irish or on another Stock Exchange it may be difficult for *Investors* to sell or realise their shareholding and/or obtain reliable information about their value or the extent of the risks to which *The Company* is exposed. The *Directors* give no undertaking to find a purchaser for these shares prior to maturity. Additional Stamp Duty may be payable on transferred shares, the cost of which will be borne by the purchaser. Profits arising from the sale of *Preference Shares* will be taxable in accordance with Capital Gains Tax legislation.

### **Tax Liability**

At present, under Section 232 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, profits from the occupation of woodland managed on a commercial basis with a view to profit are exempt from Income and Corporation Tax. Under Section 140 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, distributions, to the extent that they are made from such profits, are exempt from income and corporation tax. *The Company* is designed to take advantage of these provisions.

Profits arising from the sale of the underlying lands may be taxable in accordance with tax legislation. Profits from the sale of the underlying land will constitute a small fraction of the total returns. This is due to the limited market that this land can be sold into as a result of the reforestation requirement imposed by the Forestry Act, 1946.

Returns generated from other sources, as discussed under “Additional Revenue Sources” on page 11, will be taxable. However, as these revenue sources cannot be relied upon they have been ignored for the purposes of the projections upon which this *Offering Document* is based.

## **Section B            General Information**

### **Share Capital**

The authorised share capital of *The Company* is €43,333 divided into 40,000 *Ordinary Shares* of €1 each and 3,333 *Preference Shares* of €1 each. Shares will be issued in registered form and share certificates will be issued. There will be no further issuing of shares after *The Company* closes for subscription and shares are not convertible.

#### ***Preference Shares***

The *Preference Shares* will be sold at €750 each, of which €749 represents the share premium, to raise €2,499,750 for *The Company*. The minimum investment is €750 and in multiples of €750 thereafter.

The *Preference Shares* are the only shares entitled to participate in the growth of the forest investment and, as such, will be the only shares to participate in the final distribution to be made when the standing timber and lands are sold, in approximately twelve years time. The *Directors* will not be recommending a dividend or a distribution of any surplus during the investment period. *Preference Shares* will be redeemed prior to the winding up of *The Company* at the end of the investment period.

The Preference Shareholders do not have any right to attend or vote at any General Meeting or Annual General Meetings.

#### ***Ordinary Shares***

40,000 *Ordinary Shares* of €1 each have been issued to I.F.S. Asset Managers Limited, which have been paid up as to 25c per share. These shares will not rank for dividend, but will carry the voting rights, thus controlling *The Company* to ensure that the necessary decisions involving the management of *The Company* can be made.

### **Legal & Arbitration Proceedings**

*The Company* is not aware of any governmental, legal or arbitration proceedings which are pending or threatened.

### **Capitalisation & Indebtedness**

*The Company* has no indebtedness as it has been established for the principal purpose of raising finance to invest directly in Irish *Forestry*. As of the date of the *Offering Document*, *The Company* has issued 40,000 *Ordinary Shares* which have been paid up as to 25c per share.

### **Board Practices**

The *Directors* confirm that *The Company* complies with Ireland's corporate governance regime.

## **Material Contracts**

Two contracts have been entered into:

- (i) I.F.S. Asset Managers Limited has been awarded the contract to maintain the forests. Mr. Paul Brosnan and Mr. Trevor McHugh are directors of I.F.S. Asset Managers Limited. I.F.S. Asset Managers Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of I.F.S. Irish Forestry Services Limited
- (ii) Forest Enterprises Limited has been contracted to act as the *Forest Management Consultant* to *The Company*.

## **Directors' Remuneration**

The *Directors* will not receive remuneration from *The Company* in respect of their services as *Directors* and *The Company* has no employees.

## **Directors' Interests**

The *Directors* at present are also directors of I.F.S. Asset Managers Limited. *The Company* has secured the services of I.F.S. Asset Managers Limited to maintain the forests to a level that maximises the potential of the forests, which is fundamental to maximising the returns. The consideration for this contract is presently set at €38 per acre per annum. This fee is indexed linked to the Consumer Price Index. *The Company* may also engage I.F.S. Asset Managers Limited to seek to generate additional revenues on its behalf from other commercial activity on a success basis only, where fees are charged at 10% of such additional revenues.

## **Reports to Investors**

*Investors* will receive an annual report comprising a review of the year based on the *Forest Management Consultants'* report and audited accounts.

A regularly updated web site will show the progress of *The Company*. This web site is located at [www.irish-forestry.ie](http://www.irish-forestry.ie)

Our Ref: DOF/MF/FK

15 May 2007

The Directors  
The Third Forestry Growth Plan plc.  
Eblana House  
Eblana Avenue  
Dun Laoghaire  
Co. Dublin

***Re: The Third Forestry Growth Plan plc. ("The Company")***

Dear Sirs,

The Company was incorporated on 9 May 2007.

The Company has issued 40,000 Ordinary Shares of €1 each, paid up as to 25c per share. No material contracts have been entered into save those detailed on page 19 of this Offering Document.

The Company has not yet traded. No accounts have been made up for presentation to members and no dividends have been declared or paid.

We consent to the inclusion of this report in the Offering Document and take responsibility for this report.

Yours faithfully,

---

**Deloitte & Touche**  
Chartered Accountants

## Section C      Application Procedure

### Procedure and Conditions for Application

To participate in *The Company* completed application forms must reach the Registered Office by the *Closing Date*. Applications will be accepted up to the maximum size of *The Company*. The right is reserved to close the applications list at any time before 29th June 2007 and to reject any application in whole or in part. *The Company* will not proceed until a minimum of €750,000 has been received by way of subscriptions. Monies will be returned to the applicants, without interest, within fourteen days after the *Closing Date* if the minimum subscription is not received.

The minimum subscription which an *Investor* may make is €750. Further subscriptions must be made in multiples of €750.

It is possible to purchase shares on behalf of others and in joint names where required. If you wish to apply for *Preference Shares* on behalf of another person, please complete the application in your own name inserting an instruction on the reverse of the Application Form signed by you, giving details of how you wish the *Preference Shares* to be allotted. Share Certificates will be issued within three weeks of the *Closing Date*.

In the event of over subscription, the over-subscribing applicants will be refunded in full, without interest, within 14 days after the *Closing Date*. Applications are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.

Applications may be withdrawn at any time up to the *Closing Date*. Successful applicants will be sent notification within 5 working days of receipt of their application indicating the amount allotted.

Applications to participate in *The Company* will be considered only on the terms and conditions of this *Offering Document*. A completed Application Form will only be accepted with payment of subscription. If a discrepancy arises between the application form and monies tendered, the amount of monies tendered will be taken to be indicative of the number of shares for allotment.

The *Directors* may, at their absolute discretion, without assigning any reason, decline to accept an application for shares in *The Company* without liability for interest and any resulting loss or damage.

By completing and delivering an Application Form you:

1. confirm that you have read and understood all the information contained in the *Offering Document*, including all information available for inspection at *The Company's* Registered Office, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions, including the Procedure and Conditions for Application.
2. warrant that, if you make an application on behalf of another person you have due authority to do so and such person shall be bound accordingly and be deemed also to have given the warranties and undertakings contained in these Conditions for Application.

Checklist for application:

- a) Completed Application Form. Original signed Application Form required. Faxes will not be accepted.
- b) Cheque or Bank Draft made out to: **“The Third Forestry Growth Plan Plc”**. Please ensure cheques are crossed and marked **“A/C Payee, Not Negotiable”**.
- c) For security purposes neither cash nor Postal Orders will be accepted.
- d) Send to the Registered Office at the address below:

The Third Forestry Growth Plan Plc  
Eblana House, Eblana Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

So as to be received by *The Company* no later than 5.30 p.m. on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

Please use the pre-paid envelope provided.

Application for Membership to:

**The Third Forestry Growth Plan Plc**

Eblana House, Eblana Avenue

Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

Tel: (01) 284 1777

Fax: (01) 284 5195

Email: info@irish-forestry.ie

I hereby apply for \_\_\_\_\_ Redeemable *Preference Shares* at €750 each and enclose a Cheque / Bank Draft made payable to “The Third Forestry Growth Plan Plc” in the amount of € \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS**

Please tick: Mr.  Mr. & Mrs.  Ms.  Mrs.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

1. I hereby confirm that I have read and understood all the information contained in the *Offering Document*, including all information available for inspection at *The Company's* Registered Office, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions, including the Procedure and Conditions for Application.
2. I hereby irrevocably authorise the *Directors* to do all such things as are necessary in connection with the management of *The Company* as set out in the *Offering Document* dated 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007 without further reference to me and notwithstanding any rights or entitlements which I may possess in respect of shares held in *The Company* and in particular I hereby irrevocably authorise the *Directors*:
  - A. To invest the subscription monies in the purchase of land and *Forestry*.
  - B. To direct, in its absolute discretion, the exercise by the *Directors* of all voting rights in connection with investments made on behalf of *The Company*.
  - C. To deal with all distributions in accordance with provisions made in the *Offering Document* dated 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007 and all applicable laws.
  - D. To place monies on deposit with Ulster Bank Ireland Limited, or other licensed bank.
2. I hereby accept that, subject to the compliance by the management with its duties and obligations, under no circumstances whatever shall I be entitled to hold the *Directors* liable for any default act or omission by the *Directors* or the failure or loss of any kind of *The Company*.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick this box if you wish to receive your Annual Financial Statements by Email.   
Please ensure that you have clearly provided your email address above

INVESTING ON BEHALF OF A THIRD PARTY

**Name of recipient(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address of recipient(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Country of Residence** \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Correspondence direction (please tick appropriate boxes)

Please send receipt and share certificate to me  recipient

Please send all future correspondence after issue of share certificate to me  recipient

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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