

Press Release

JAMES CAAN JOINED BY SENIOR PANEL TO DEBATE FUTURE FOR SMEs

The wrap-up episode of The Business Class with James Caan airs from Monday, 23rd December

London, 19th December 2013 – Entrepreneur James Caan hosts the final episode in the latest series of *The Business Class* on CNBC, which first airs on Monday, 23rd December at 10pm (UK time).

After spending the series discussing the future for six exciting UK-based SMEs, Caan appears with an impressive panel of four business experts to discuss the broader potential for small UK businesses. The programme will also look back at some of the entrepreneurs from series one of *The Business Class*.

In the wrap-up episode, Caan is joined by Dale Murray, the co-Founder of Omega Logic and non-executive director at the Department for Business Innovation & Skills; entrepreneur Charlie Mullins, the founder of Pimlico Plumbers; Lord Digby Jones, the business ambassador at UK Trade & Investment and Sam Smith, the chief executive and founder of FinnCap.

Caan's panel will discuss subjects such as funding and lending for SMEs from banks and sources such as crowdfunding and the prospects for international expansion.

"The SME sector is more important to the UK economy than ever before, and it's vital that there are different options available for them to start up and then grow. The panellists who joined me all have a huge passion for business and we had a fascinating discussion about the entrepreneurial environment in this country."

Each 30-minute episode of the series saw Caan assisted by experts from a cross-section of industries, providing strategic business advice to the UK's most innovative SMEs and helping them improve their business model and boost profits.

The six UK companies that featured in the series faced different challenges in their business cycle and were taken from a variety of sectors including

technology, financial services, manufacturing, retail and professional services.

Previous episodes of *The Business Class* featured the augmented-reality app **Blippar**; skincare products company **Pai**; **Crowdcube**, the crowdfunding business platform; **Morphsuits**, which makes all-in-one suits for the party market; **Not Going to Uni**, a website offering career alternatives for young people and **Annabel Karmel**, the baby and childcare expert.

CNBC can be seen on Sky channel 505, Virgin 613 and Freesat 210.

Visit the series' dedicated website at businessclass.cnbc.com or follow the show on Twitter at **#CNBCBizClass**. Use the hashtag to ask James Caan a question to help your SME.

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For more information, or photography, please contact:

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About James Caan

James Caan is one of the UK's most successful entrepreneurs. He made his fortune in the recruitment industry, which included the global success of his companies Alexander Mann and Humana International. In 2004 he founded private equity firm Hamilton Bradshaw, which now has a portfolio of over 30 companies. As well as *The Business Class*, James is best known for joining the hit BBC show *Dragons' Den*, where he invested over £1m across 14 companies. He has received various prestigious awards including 'BT Enterprise of the Year', PricewaterhouseCoopers 'Entrepreneur of the Year' and Chairman of the Year at the 2013 International Business Awards. A passionate supporter of small businesses, James is Chairman of the Government's Start Up Loans scheme, which provides funding and mentoring to young entrepreneurs. To date the scheme has backed over 7000 entrepreneurs. James has released three best-selling books – his autobiography *The Real Deal, Get the Job You Really Want*, and more recently *Start Your Business in 7 Days*, as well as a highly acclaimed free app, James Caan Business Secrets.