

AQSE WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

[Samarkand Group](#) has signed an agreement with one of the world's largest cosmetics companies. Listed on the Korea Stock Exchange with a market capitalisation of over £7 billion, Amorepacific will be licensing Samarkand's Nomad Checkout technology, which integrates with existing eCommerce software such as Shopify. David Hampstead, CEO of Samarkand, remarked that the new contract endorses the decision to target the Northeast Asian market by opening offices in Japan earlier this year.

[Semper Fortis Esports](#) has once again expanded its SMPR team roster. After recently embracing professional FIFA, the company announced yesterday its official entrance into Fortnite. Max Anthony Cope and Jack Renata, who go by the names *Tweaks* and *Esky* respectively, have each signed a six-month contract with Semper Fortis. The company says the signings will improve the company's digital footprint by over 575,000 followers across social media channels, whilst developing the SMPR brand in one of the world's most popular games.

[Yooma Wellness](#) has paid US\$12 million for Vertex Co., a Tokyo-based wellness business. The acquiree is known for its proprietary wellness products marketed across Japan *via* television shopping networks such as QVC and online. The stock purchase agreement allows Yooma to increase its customer base and improve its distribution abilities, while the expansion into Japan serves as a springboard for further global portfolio augmentation after Yooma's acquisition of Texan beverage brand Big Swig was formally implemented last week.

[Rogue Baron](#) announced it was delighted that its subsidiary brand Shinju has won a silver medal at the "Best World Whisky" awards hosted by The Fifty Best. Shinju's Japanese Whisky White Pearl was highly commended by judges, being the only Japanese whisky among the medal winners.

[National Milk Records](#), agri-tech information services provider, released its audited full-year results on Wednesday. The group reported an operating profit of £1.3 million on revenue growth of 1.5%. (like-for-like growth of 3.5%) and an increase in EBITDA of 65% (vs. FY2020). Moreover, the group proposes to pay an increased dividend of 1.5p per share (2020: 1.25p). Andy Warne, Managing Director, praised the resilience of NMR's earnings as a reflection of the important role the company plays in the dairy supply chain. Warne also reported the approval of a cutting-edge genomics laboratory and improved greenhouse gas reporting to ameliorate standards company-wide.

Finally, [Ananda Developments](#) provided an update on its medicinal cannabis research growing facility being developed by subsidiary DJT Plants. The substructure has been completed and construction of the growing tunnels is in progress. Melissa Sturgess, CEO, restated Ananda's ambition to build a profitable business "growing and supplying medical cannabis that meets patient and prescriber needs". UK advisory group Maple Tree Consultants predicts rapid growth across the novel industry, the directors of Ananda state they are encouraged to see medicinal cannabis becoming more widely acceptable and understood as an efficacious treatment for many health indications.

Also out: [Tectonic Gold](#) remobilised drilling at Specimen Hill as planned, [KR1](#) revised its executive service arrangements and [NFT Investments](#) made two new deals in the blockchain space.