

**Update: Interquest****Ticker symbol:** ITQ ([Aim](#) market)**Contact:** 020 7025 0100 or [interquestgroup.com](http://interquestgroup.com)

Interquest also had a tough [recession](#). The company is in recruitment, a sector that was universally panned by the stock market after the financial crisis.

Interquest shares suffered more than most because it specialises in IT recruitment and many of its customers are banks.

The stock went from 155p in the spring of 2007 to just 28p by the end of 2008. Midas first looked at Interquest in January 2007, when the shares were 80p.

Four months later, they were 136p and we suggested investors sell at least half their stock. The advice proved timely. After crashing to less than 30p, Interquest has crept steadily up and now stands at 60p, a level at which they are almost certainly worth another look.

Chairman Gary Ashworth is an entrepreneur who made his name with Abacus Recruitment, which joined Aim in 2005 and was sold four years later at ten times the float price.

Interquest was admitted to Aim in 2005 at 60p so Ashworth cannot replicate exactly the same trick with this company but supporters hope he will deliver given a bit more time.

IT recruitment is highly specialised and many operators are woefully inexperienced, to the frustration of companies trying to hire and IT operators trying to find work.

Interquest trains its recruiters so they understand the markets they operate in and can match employers with potential employees.

Ashworth was chairman and chief executive but in March, he took the role of executive chairman and Mark Braund was appointed chief executive.

He bought £100,000 of shares while renowned investor Jim Mellon recently bought a 5 per cent stake in the company.

Impressively too, profits for 2010 rose 24 per cent to £2.2 million and the dividend rose from 2p to 2.5p.

**Midas verdict:** *Investors who bought in 2007 at 80p are nursing losses but they should keep faith as Interquest shares will almost certainly rise over the coming months.*

*Demand for IT is strong and the stock is undervalued by comparison with other recruitment groups. New investors should consider buying at current levels.*