



Youtravel restructures to drive further growth

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Youtravel.com says revenue in 2013 rose 57% year-on-year, with figures so far for 2014 up by 102% year-on-year.

It has also seen a 36% increase in the number of wholesalers and travel agents regularly using Youtravel.com as an accommodation-only provider.

The figures were unveiled as the bedbank – which is 85% owned by the FTI Group and 15% by a legal entity incorporated within Dr John Kent Group of companies – has also unveiled a management restructure.

Jacky Bedlow, who became Youtravel's chief executive in July 2013, has decided to leave the company in June 2014.

Her areas of responsibility will be distributed between Andy Baker as chief marketing officer; Ranj Kundi as chief operating officer; Marwan Mazraani as chief information officer; Laura Dryden in human resources; Nathalie Kouzi in sales and communications; and Anna Emmerson in finance.

Andy Baker has been promoted to CMO, assuming responsibility for UK and international sales and marketing, while Ranj Kundi undertakes the role of COO, overseeing the areas of product, operations and quality management.

The management team of youtravel.com will report to Roula Jouny, chief executive of sister company Meeting Point International (MPI) Group.

She has been actively involved in the restructure of the Youtravel Group over the last 18 months, following its acquisition by FTI, and has been driving the development of new products.

She said: 'The restructuring is aligned to three main priorities – to ensure speed and accuracy in decision-making, to enhance sales strategy and implementation and to strengthen existing business and develop new capabilities.'

'We would like to thank Jacky for her contribution to the success of the business during her tenure as CEO and extend our very best wishes for the future.'
Baker added: 'In the last six months we have built significant growth in all of Youtravel's divisions.'

'We now have a tremendous opportunity to consolidate our excellent relationship with our worldwide distribution partners and our solid 2013 performance and drive further growth in 2014 both nationally and internationally.'