

HEADLINE: Pick of the bunch

AUTHOR: None

Equities in select segments are set to rebound over the next 12 months, experts agree, with BT Investment Management chief executive Dirk Morris predicting a revival for building firms exposed to the United States - where the housing sector is expected to stabilise in 2009; he likes construction materials group Boral. Clime Capital's Roger Montgomery says Cochlear, Reece and Woolworths present good value at the moment, while UBS healthcare analyst Andrew Goodsall recommends blood plasma specialist CSL, which is waiting on approval to acquire rival Talecris Biotherapeutics in a US\$3.1 billion (\$4.8 billion) deal. Elsewhere, Pengana's Ed Prendergast likes law firm Slater & Gordon; Wilson Investment Fund likes financial services firm McMillan Shakespeare; Fortis Investment Partners' George Clapham favours media group News Corp; Macquarie Small Companies Fund likes litigation funder IMF; ABN Amro Morgans expects a turnaround at wheat exporter AWB; Fat Prophets nominates BHP Billiton as a good play, citing its strong balance sheet following the cancelled Rio Tinto takeover bid; Aegis Equities Research is another advocate of retail giant Woolworths; Souls Funds Management likes mining services firm Monadelphous; Intelligent Investor researcher Greg Hoffman likes shopping centre operator Westfield Holdings; Shaw Stockbroking likes Alumina - a potential takeover target for Alcoa; UBS Small Companies Fund's preferred pick is Energy Resources of Australia; Bell Potter Securities says ATM equipment provider Customers is a good small-cap play; **Wise-owl.com analyst Tim Morris says plantation group TFS Corp will have a strong year;** ShareFinder Investment Services likes insurer QBE; and State One Stockbroking likes Dominion Mining, operator of the Challenger Gold Mine in South Australia.

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