

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

An AGN 'Global Business Voice' special report
London and New York - May 20, 2020

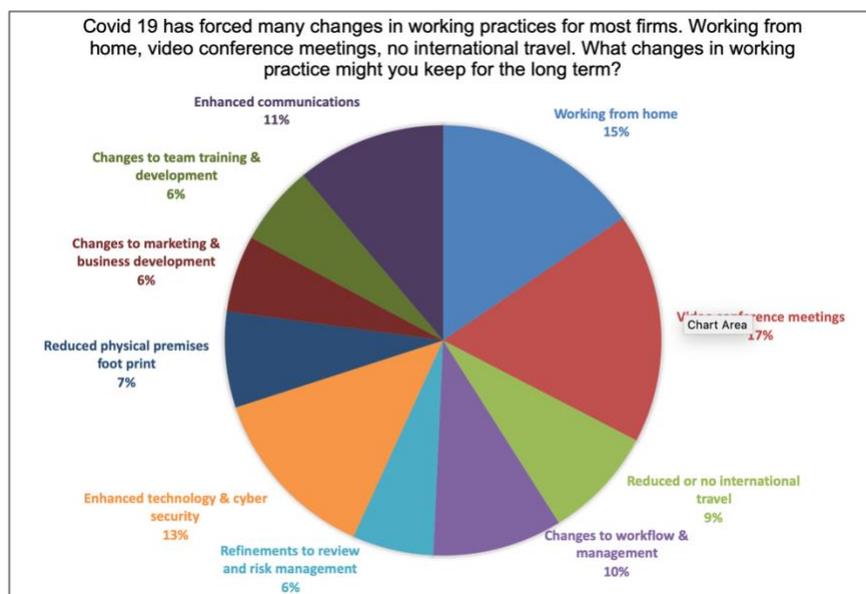
Remote Working – is the genie out of the bottle?

It is difficult to overstate the effect that COVID-19 has had on normal business functioning. Just about every area of business operation has changed, and for many, it may have changed forever. Our survey highlights that almost all firms will retain some aspects of this new reality.

Malcolm Ward, Global CEO comments, *“For many being forced to introduce remote working has accelerated changes often already underway, and also created positive developments in areas like communication, technology and security – it’s also put a question mark over the use of traditional working practices in particular the future role of the office”.*

The two big factors, which are, to some extent, two parts of the same thing, are the use of video conferencing and working from home. The long-heralded remote working revolution is kick-started and for many seems set to stay long after COVID-19 disappears. Also standing out from the pack is a much-increased focus on cybersecurity and use of technology, which of course goes hand-in-hand with the trend.

Almost all of the other factors mentioned in this question are influenced in some way by remote working, which impacts everything from the way we learn and develop to the need for and use of physical premises.



“However, remote working isn't for everyone – a significant element are keen to revert to office working, and are struggling with the practical implications of remote working. Beyond the basics of remote working, how do you train people? Manage workflow? Generate new business and make complex technical and risk management decisions from your living room? Surely there is a raft of new skills and new techniques that have to be explored and frankly invented!” - Malcolm Ward AGN Global CEO.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

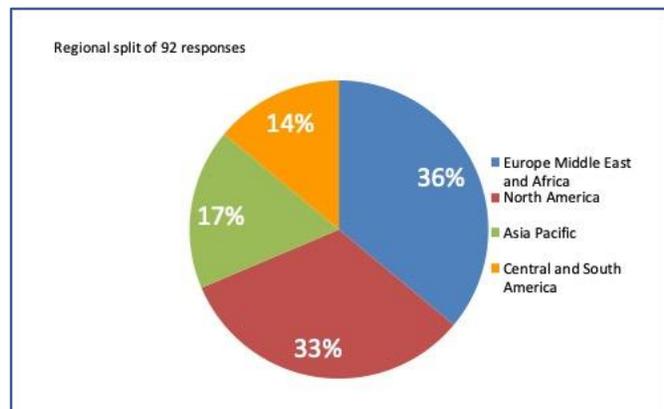
The AGN Global Business Voice – COVID-19 Survey

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A special edition of the 'AGN Global Business Voice' reports on our members changing work practices, the steps they are taking to mitigate COVID-19's impact on their own business, and their vision for when we can see a resumption of 'business as usual'. The first in a series of press releases, our survey covered members' expectations and responses to the crisis, and well as its duration, lessons and opportunities. The second used facts and figures to determine when this economic nightmare be over and when pre-COVID-19 levels of economic activity will resume.

The members of AGN international are predominantly medium-sized accountancy and financial consulting firms spread within almost every region of the world. Each member has an intimate understanding of the finances of hundreds if not thousands of businesses that are their clients. Once again, we find the views of the AGN membership a powerful litmus test for what is happening to clients and consequently the accountancy sector across the world.

Our survey covered nearly 50% of AGN member firms. The average size of firm polled comprised of 66 people. Our survey covered nearly 50% of AGN member firms. The average size of firm polled comprised of 66 people.



AGN International

AGN International (www.agn.org), established in 1978, representing independent accounting and financial advisory businesses is amongst the largest comparable member association globally. With nearly **200-member firms in over 80 countries** delivering assurance, accounting, tax and advisory services worldwide, AGN International sets high standards and prides itself in delivering exceptional client service as a service model priority. **Learn more about how we aim for high standards.**

AGN International maintains teams in London, United Kingdom; Colorado, USA; Catalonia and Andalucía, Spain; and Beijing, China.

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