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## **BLACKBERRY CO-CHIEF EXECUTIVES QUIT RESEARCH IN MOTION**

Following co-chief executives Mike Lazaridis and Jim Balsillie's departures from Research in Motion, **Ernest Doku, technology expert at [uSwitch.com](http://uSwitch.com)**, commented: "Mr Lazaridis talks of passing the baton, but with BlackBerry's recent performance in the mobile market, his and Mr Balsillie's departures smack more of a quick dash for the exit.

"One of the problems is that RIM has lost its USP, BlackBerry Messenger. Rival instant messaging apps like Whatsapp are now common features across other smartphone platforms, and BlackBerry's once-lauded email system is becoming increasingly overshadowed.

"Thorsten Heins' rescue package involves rallying RIM's troops to launch the next-generation BlackBerry 10 phones later this year. His focus on delivering the hardware is admirable, but this hasn't worked for RIM thus far. The smartphone market is saturated, and the worry is that RIM is always one step behind the other big players.

"Investors have been questioning for a while what RIM's strategy is. The problem is that the likes of Apple and Samsung are so dominant in their space, that it's hard to envisage what RIM can do now to gain any ground."

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**For further information please contact:**

Maja Hauke, uSwitch.com on 020 7802 2913 or [maja.hauke@uswitch.com](mailto:maja.hauke@uswitch.com)  
Jonny Stevens, Rhizome PR on 0207 8514757 or [jonny@rhizomepr.com](mailto:jonny@rhizomepr.com)

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