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European Commission supports the launch of a Global RFID Interoperability Forum for Standards

Brussels, 6th February 2008,

GS1, ETSI and CEN, three major standards organisations, are launching the **Global RFID Interoperability Forum for Standards (GRIFS)**, a support action project funded by the European Union with the aim to improve collaboration and thereby to maximise the global interoperability of RFID standards.

GRIFS, which started in January 2008 and will last 2 years, will initiate a forum that will continue to work and grow after the end of the project through a Memorandum of Understanding and continuous cooperation between key global standard organisations active in RFID.

GS1, a global organisation dedicated to the development of standards for the supply and demand chain, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) are leading the GRIFS project with the support of 12 GS1 national organisations from Europe, Africa, Asia and America.

The project is funded by the European Commission's Framework Programme 7 for Information and Communication Technologies, in which the European Union has recognised the importance of inter-enterprise interoperability as we move towards ambient intelligence environments where most devices are connected to seamless, ubiquitous networks.

GRIFS will work to characterise the variety of standards activities taking place globally;

- To create a number of liaison activities to disseminate information about the importance of global standards
- To align RFID standards development globally
- To put in place the 'Global RFID Interoperability forum for Standards' (GRIFS) comprising global stakeholders
- To ensure continuing close collaboration between standards activities.

This will create synergies, catalyse co-operation and avoid duplication of developments - thereby minimising unnecessary business expenses caused by the development of incompatible localised standards and maximising the use of scarce standards development resources. As enterprise networks and intelligent supply chains grow in number, size and reach, the requirement for coherent global standards becomes an absolutely necessary requisite.

This support action will focus on the use of RFID in supply chains and related activities. These activities primarily encompass the tracking and tracing of physical items – as they move through supply chains in many different businesses, both in the public and private sector.

More information is available under <http://www.grifs-project.eu>

ABOUT GRIFS

GRIFS is a Support Action Project supported by the European Commission's FP7 Programme. It is a 2 year project which started in January 2008 and which will focus on developing liaisons between standards organisations and initiate a long-term forum of exchange and collaboration for global RFID stakeholders.

<http://www.grifs-project.eu>

GRIFS Partners

GS1

GS1 is a global organisation dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards, technologies and solutions to improve the efficiency and visibility of supply and demand chains.

GS1 has more than 30 years experience in the development and support of global supply chain standards and technologies.

GS1 is a neutral, not-for-profit standards and services organisation.

<http://www.gs1.org>

ETSI

The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) is an independent, non-profit organization, whose mission is to produce telecommunications standards for today and for the future. Based in Sophia Antipolis (France), ETSI is officially responsible for standardization of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) within Europe. These technologies include telecommunications, broadcasting and related areas such as intelligent transportation and medical electronics. ETSI unites 696 members from 62 countries inside and outside Europe, including manufacturers, network operators, administrations, service providers, research bodies and users - in fact, all the key players in the ICT arena.

<http://www.etsi.org>

CEN

The European Committee for Standardization is contributing to the objectives of the European Union and European Economic Area with voluntary technical standards which promote free trade, the safety of workers and consumers, interoperability of networks, environmental protection, exploitation of research and development programmes, and public procurement.

CEN is a non-profit making technical organization set up under Belgian law.

<http://www.cen.eu>

About the Framework Programme 7 ICT

The objective of ICT research under the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) is to improve the competitiveness of European industry – as well as to enable Europe to master and shape the future developments of these technologies so that the demands of its society and economy are met.

The EU Member States have earmarked a total of € 9.1 billion for funding ICT over the duration of FP7; making it the largest research theme in the Cooperation programme, which is itself the largest specific programme of FP7 (with 64% of the total budget).

FP7 research activities will strengthen Europe's scientific and technology base and ensure its global leadership in ICT, help drive and stimulate product, service and process innovation and creativity through ICT use and ensure that ICT progress is rapidly transformed into benefits for Europe's citizens, businesses, industry and governments.

More information: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/>