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EU sponsored GRIFS project shines a light on the complex world of RFID standards

Brussels, 2 December 2008 – GRIFS, the EU funded project promoting closer co-operation between RFID standards organisations, today announced the launch of a report on the current status of global RFID-related standards. The comprehensive report demonstrates the broad scope of the current state of RFID standards on a global scale and highlights the need for more co-ordination between key standard organisations.

The GRIFS report, produced by GS1, ETSI and CEN, provides an inventory of global RFID standards and identifies all RFID-related standards organisations, the geographical and technical scope of their work, and the opportunities and risks of collaboration, including gap/overlap analysis. The scope of the report focuses on the use of RFID in the supply chain including the tracking and tracing of physical objects.

The report's conclusion highlights the need for a significantly greater amount of co-operation between RFID standards development organisations, particularly in the areas of universal identification, security and high-frequency standards that are increasingly used on products but that also use smart cards and mobile phones for transmission. The project participants also identify the need for better information about standards and their state of development and propose that the standard situation analysis should be kept up-to-date through an online database. The maintenance of a database would allow the identification of potential overlaps, new standardisation areas and provide the application developers and the RFID community with an accurate overview of all relevant RFID standards.

"This report gives an excellent overview of the RFID standards landscape and identifies areas of potential overlap where co-operation between standards organisations is

required. It will provide the basis for the GRIFS project to set up the processes required to ensure this co-operation happens effectively,” says John Ketchell, CEN, Director New Opportunities and Pre-Standards – CEN with its GRIFS partners GS1 and ETSI, and in collaboration with the CASAGRAS project, organized the team providing the report as its first contribution to the GRIFS process.

The issues identified in the report will be addressed in the next phase of the GRIFS project, which aims to create a collaborative forum to assist in the co-ordination and alignment of RFID standards development globally.

The report is available at <http://www.grifs-project.eu/index.php/downloads/en/>

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Notes to the editor:

ABOUT GRIFS

GRIFS (Global RFID Interoperability Forum for Standards) is a Support Action Project sponsored by the European Commission’s FP7 Programme. It is a 2 year project which started in January 2008 and which focuses 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. With more than 30 years experience, 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 Standardisation 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/>