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EPCglobal Inc Ratifies Electronic Pedigree Standard

Provides Platform for Compliance for Pedigree Laws Requiring a Document-Based Approach

BRUSSELS, Belgium – January 11, 2007 – GS1 EPCglobal, the not-for-profit standards organization dedicated to driving global adoption of the Electronic Product Code (EPC) for supply chain excellence, today announced the ratification of the Electronic Pedigree Document specification.

The new standard was developed to help companies that are serializing products using EPC technology to comply with pedigree regulations, such as ones recently enacted in multiple states within the United States. The initial focus of the EPCglobal Electronic Pedigree Document standard was the Florida Drug Pedigree Act, but it was designed to be usable as a platform to support a wide variety of pedigree process applications.

The EPCglobal standard includes an ePedigree document schema as well as an ePedigree envelope schema that companies can use as a way of holding multiple ePedigrees together in a single document for electronic transmission. Industries currently using paper-based pedigree documents will find this standard a useful tool in the fight against product counterfeiting and for brand protection. The new standard will enable technology providers to create solutions that can provide document interoperability across the supply chain, from manufacturers to wholesalers to retailers.

“This effort marks an important step in ensuring trading partners have an interoperable way to exchange document-based pedigrees for pharmaceuticals and other products,” said Chris Adcock, president of EPCglobal Inc. “We extend our thanks to the pharmaceutical supply chain professionals and solution providers who collaborated to develop and test the Electronic Pedigree Document standard. With this standard in place, supply chain participants can begin to comply with document-based pedigree regulations, like the Florida Drug Pedigree Act, without fear of serious interoperability issues.”

Looking to the future, the EPCglobal Healthcare and Life Sciences (HLS) Industry Action Group has begun work to define the requirements to develop a full track and trace system based on the EPCIS (EPC Information Services) standard, which is expected in the first quarter of 2007. A full track and trace approach would enable the pedigree information to be shared upstream and downstream, as opposed to the limitation of simply passing it from trading partner to trading partner in one direction only. Track and trace has significant value for protecting the integrity of the supply chain and is seen as a more universal approach that can be applied globally and across multiple industries. Refinement and definition of this alternative approach is anticipated in 2007.

About EPCglobal Inc

EPCglobal Inc supports the global adoption of the Electronic Product Code as a global standard to enable accurate information and visibility about products in the supply chain. More information about EPCglobal Inc can be found at <http://www.epcglobalinc.org>.

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