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EPCglobal Ratifies First Software Standard for EPC/RFID As Build-Out of the EPCglobal Network Continues

*Standard Will Enable More Efficient Collection and Movement of EPC Data,
Making Supply Chains Visible and Traceable in Real Time; Opens Door for Proliferation of
Standards-Based Software*

BRUSSELS, Belgium – Sept. 21, 2005 – EPCglobal Inc, a subsidiary of GS1, a not-for-profit standards organization entrusted with driving the global adoption of Electronic Product Code (EPC) technology and the EPCglobal Network, today announced the ratification of a new software standard for using EPC technology in the supply chain.

The standard, known as the Application Level Events standard, or ALE, is the first created by the EPCglobal community specifically for software. ALE was developed by more than 100 leading companies within a workgroup of the EPCglobal Software Action Group and establishes the approach EPC-enabled software products will take in collecting, managing and routing data that EPC technology generates in the supply chain.

“The community is making swift and positive strides in the ongoing commercialization of RFID and EPC technology,” said Chris Adcock, president of EPCglobal Inc. “This software standard will facilitate the creation of a standardized approach for filtering and collecting EPC information within the EPC-enabled enterprise, allowing the development of systems that will achieve business value more effectively and efficiently.”

Today’s announcement follows successful testing of prototype software products from several technology providers, including Acsis, ConnecTerra, GlobeRanger, IBM (NYSE: IBM), Progress Software (NASDAQ: PRGS), and **Reva Systems**. The tests ensured that products built to the standard meet the requirements of suppliers, manufacturers, and end-user companies operating across multiple industries.

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Standards developed by the EPCglobal community are foundational elements in the continuing build-out of the EPCglobal Network, which combines RFID technology, existing network infrastructure and the EPC to provide accurate, cost-efficient visibility of product information throughout supply chains.

As with other standards developed by and within the EPCglobal community, the new software standard is royalty-free, having been developed by solution providers and end-user companies working in cooperation with each other. Royalty-free standards are a primary goal of EPCglobal, and will aid in the rapid creation of standards-based, interoperable products and the widespread deployment of EPC technology. As hardware suppliers produce chips, tags and readers that will form the physical components to capture data for use in the EPCglobal Network, software is a critical component in the effective sharing, distribution, location and usage of EPC-generated data.

“Successful capture, filtering and collection of data is essential in helping companies realize the full business benefits of the EPCglobal Network,” Adcock said. “We applaud the work of the many companies that collaborated in developing this important standard.”

The new standard joins other EPCglobal standards, including the UHF Generation 2 standard, which was ratified in December 2004.

An EPCglobal standard ensures interoperability and sets minimum operational expectations for various components in the EPCglobal Network, including software and hardware components. While EPCglobal oversees interoperability and conformance testing of standards-based products, the actual development of these products comes from leading solution providers around the globe.

EPCglobal Inc is a joint venture between GS1 (formerly EAN International) and GS1 US (formerly the Uniform Code Council). GS1 is a leading global organization dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards and solutions to improve efficiency and visibility in supply and demand chains. GS1 US is a not-for-profit member organization of GS1 and is dedicated to the development and implementation of standards-based, global supply chain solutions.

About EPCglobal Inc. EPCglobal Inc™, a subsidiary of GS1, is a not-for-profit organization entrusted by industry to establish and support the EPCglobal Network™ as the global standard for real-time, automatic identification of information in the supply chain of any company, anywhere in the world. The EPCglobal Network combines radio frequency identification (RFID) technology, existing communications network infrastructure, and the Electronic Product Code™ (a number for uniquely identifying an item) to enable accurate, cost-efficient visibility of information in the supply chain. The end result helps organizations be more efficient, flexible, and responsive to customer needs. EPCglobal US is an affiliate of EPCglobal Inc, serving subscribers in the United States to help foster the adoption of the EPCglobal Network and related technology. For more information about EPCglobal visit: www.EPCglobalinc.org.

About GS1. GS1 is the global not-for-profit organisation that creates, develops and manages the EAN•UCC standards jointly with the Uniform Code Council, one of its Member Organisations. These are open, global, multisectoral standards, based on best business practices. By driving their implementation, GS1 and its Member Organisations play a leading role in supply and demand chain management improvement worldwide. For more information on GS1, please visit: www.GS1.org.

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