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Isabel's International Ambitions Take Off

Eight Luxembourg Banks Will Deploy Isabel's New International Banking Platform

Brussels, 27 September 2006 – Isabel has just taken a major step in terms of business development. Belgian supplier of multi-bank solutions for more than ten years, Isabel has now launched its services on the international market. Indeed, the company has just signed a contract selling the licence of its brand-new international banking platform to a Luxembourg consortium, EBISⁱ. The latter includes eight of the main banks established within Luxembourg's financial area, namely: Banque de Luxembourg ; Banque et Caisse d'Epargne de l'Etat, Luxembourg ; Banque Raiffeisen ; Dexia Banque Internationale à Luxembourg ; l'Entreprise des P&T ; Fortis Banque Luxembourg ; ING and la Société Générale Bank & Trust.

"The unification of the European payment systems (SEPAⁱⁱ) has created considerable demand for our solutions. With this international development strategy, we are expecting to meet this demand by applying the extensive know-how that we have acquired through the many projects carried out during these last ten years" explained Philippe R. Dubois, Isabel's Managing Director.

In this context, the announcement of the agreement entered into with the Luxembourg consortium is all the more important for Isabel. Indeed the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is without doubt *the* European financial centre and was wanting to modernise its company-orientated banking offer, while taking into account its own particular formats and procedures (SWIFT, VIR2000, DOM2000, ...).

The EBIS decision to choose the Isabel solution was guided by various considerations, among which:

- Its functional richness meeting the needs of local business customers;
- The platform's technological choice;
- Its flexibility for integration into the existing software environments within the customer companies;
- Its compatibility with the local security solution, LuxTrustⁱⁱⁱ.

From a practical point of view, the technical aspects of operating the solution will be entrusted to CETREL^{iv} in accordance with Luxembourg legislation. As for the availability of the solution for company users, this will be in the course of the second quarter of 2007.

Isabel's International Banking Solution

- **Banking:** Isabel's new international multi-bank platform supports all electronic payment formats in preparation for SEPA. It also enables the management of direct debits, as well as national and international transfers, etc. Moreover, the technological choice in favour of a web-based solution further increases the flexibility of integration with ERP or third-party accounting solutions, while at the same time making it more user-friendly.
- **ZOOMIT:** Over and above these typical banking functionalities, Isabel's international solution also includes a complete section devoted to electronic invoicing.
- **Administration:** The solution is furthermore packaged with a centralised database in order to facilitate contract management (creation, configuration, consultation and cancellation). Administration is all the easier as the solution can also be replicated into the banks' client management interfaces.

This functional richness is a key contributor to the system's flexibility, which also results in a "multi-local" approach. In other words, Isabel's international banking solution can be implemented according to the specific local characteristics of the various markets.

Much more than a software house, Isabel is the first user of its solution. The company therefore also offers unparalleled trade knowledge in terms of eBanking. Its expertise is recognised throughout the entire world.

"As the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is an exceptional shop-window in the financial world, Isabel could not find a better agreement for kicking off its development strategy" concluded Philippe R. Dubois. "Let us make sure that this contract sends a strong signal to the banks of the whole world!"

About Isabel

Isabel specialises in developing and supporting corporate eBanking and electronic invoicing systems. Its solutions are used by many financial institutions and bank associations throughout Europe. In Belgium, 25 banks and 110,000 business customers have subscribed to its on-line services. An electronic security specialist, Isabel is the preferred business channel for accessing eGovernment applications. Thanks to its ZOOMIT solution, Isabel is also the ideal partner for exchanging documents via Internet Banking. Consequently, electronic invoicing is available for millions of consumers and SMEs. Isabel was founded in 1995 and employs 110 people. Further information is available at www.isabel.eu and www.zoomit.eu.

ⁱ **EBIS:** (Electronic Banking and Information System) Group of banks marketing the MultiLine product, an eBanking solution for the business world. The members of EBIS are the following:

- Banque de Luxembourg,
- Banque et Caisse d'Epargne de l'Etat, Luxembourg (BCEE)
- Banque Raiffeisen,
- Dexia Banque Internationale à Luxembourg,
- Entreprise des P&T,
- Fortis Banque Luxembourg,
- ING,
- Société Générale Bank & Trust.

ⁱⁱ **SEPA:** Single Euro Payments Area.

ⁱⁱⁱ **LuxTrust SA** is a company founded by the State of Luxembourg and some private companies for the installation of a high-security infrastructure, based on PKI technology enabling electronic signature and strong authentication for electronic on-line services.

^{iv} **CETREL SC** (CEntre de TRansferts ELectroniques) is a co-operative company founded in 1985 by the Luxembourg banks of the financial centre involved in Retail Banking and by the Entreprise des P&T. Today, CETREL is already operating a wide range of electronic financial applications.



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