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Isabel 6: the driving force behind Belgian businesses in eFinance for the next 10 years

Force 6 efficiency, simplicity, upgradeability and mobility

Brussels, 1st February 2007 – In announcing Isabel 6 and the genuine major advance it will bring with it to the world of eFinance, Isabel has given form to how it sees the next 10 years. The Isabel 6 strategy revolves around three main focal points: a single European SEPA architecture for all Isabel customers throughout the European Union, a web portal that showcases the Network Economy, where finance interacts with business (eBanking, eInvoicing, eGovernment, etc.), and Isabel's acclaimed security. Isabel 6 will enable Belgian businesses of all sizes to take a further step towards modernising the financial transactions they conduct electronically.

Isabel has completely revamped its Belgian platform and incorporated it into its tried-and-tested European architecture (Isabel International Business Suite). This means that the 110,000 businesses in Belgium that are already customers of Isabel will be able to enjoy the benefits of numerous developments and new features, such as access via the Web, full integration into accounting software packages, and compliance with SEPA. The overall aim is to boost the efficiency of the financial and business streams of Isabel customers by introducing an upgradeable architecture that provides the means of responding quickly to new needs as they arise.

Isabel 6: a whole new vision with a host of advantages. Let's take a more detailed look:

- **Web Portal:** Acting as a genuine "Business Forum", this portal enables multiple users from the same organisation to access and share their data through a simple browser and an Internet connection, regardless of their geographic location (teleworking, subsidiaries, travelling abroad, etc.).

Naturally one of the cornerstones you would expect to find in the portal is Isabel's internationally renowned security. This safeguard is provided using the Isabel smart card and a card-reader.

- **Service (API¹) integrated into accounting and ERP solutions:** The usual Isabel functions are available directly from accounting and ERP solutions, making Isabel a genuine service rather than just a separate software solution.

In practical terms, this means that users access Isabel functionalities through a simple button in their accounting or ERP system. This results in a significant reduction in the need to encode data, while at the same time boosting the efficiency and output of the finance and accounting department.

- **European architecture and SEPA compatibility:** Isabel 6 is based on the architecture used in the **Isabel International Business Suite**, which has already been implemented successfully on the international market (Luxembourg, Germany, Spain, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Netherlands).

The unification of European payment systems (SEPA) will take some time to come into effect and a timetable in several stages has been drawn up by the EC and the National Bank. Isabel 6 will provide a guiding hand for businesses throughout the transition period so that the impact of SEPA can be minimised and its benefits maximised for Isabel customers.

- **ZOOMIT Pro:** Reserved for use by businesses, ZOOMIT Pro incorporates Isabel eInvoice and retains all of the benefits associated with electronic invoicing via the Isabel platform. With greater scope than ever before, ZOOMIT Pro makes it possible to reach the 3 million users of Internet banking – SMEs and private individuals. ZOOMIT Pro also enables payslips and other administrative documents to be sent.

¹ **API** : Application Programming Interface

"This announcement truly marks the beginning of a new era that will define eFinance for the next 10 years," says Philippe R. Dubois, Managing Director of Isabel. "By releasing Isabel 6 and its many additional services, we would like to invite all Belgian SMEs and businesses to join our community of users. And as you can imagine, we also intend to strengthen the relationship we already enjoy with our 110,000 customer companies."

Prices and availability

Isabel 6 is based on an extremely versatile concept that consists of a basic package with matching options. These additional options can be activated or deactivated depending on the actual needs of the business. This means that customers only pay for the Isabel modules they actually use and they do so on a monthly basis. The Isabel pricing grid used has already been simplified to enable Isabel to be used by small business outfits.

As a result of these changes, the basic module now costs 15.00 EUR per month per user and also includes the secure connection module via the Internet, as well as international transfers.

Currently in its pilot phase, Isabel 6 will be made available to the first customers from the end of 2007. For more information about Isabel 6, please visit www.isabel.eu/newibs

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.