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The BRIDGE project delivers General Requirements and a High-Level Design for Discovery Services

Brussels, Belgium, 13 November 2007 – The BRIDGE project (Building Radio frequency IDentification for the Global Environment) is presenting significant results in the area of Discovery Services by publishing two major deliverables on its public website: General Requirements and a High Level Design for Discovery Services.

Discovery Services (also called "serial-level look-up services") enable users to find multiple sources of information about an individual physical object that is identified by a specific Electronic Product Code™ (EPC). Users can then request access to more detailed information from each source, e.g. via queries to the EPC Information Service of each information provider.

The two public deliverables developed in the frame of the BRIDGE project are expected to have great impact in the development of global standards for the use of RFID technology in the supply chain and the access of data related to RFID. They represent a very significant development in the move from localised RFID pilots to a truly global supply chain with ambient intelligence.

After conducting a survey of user requirements and integration requirements, the team developed a design for a data model and interfaces for Discovery Services, both for queries and publishing of records to Discovery Services. The design document also includes a technical comparison of various alternative approaches to Discovery Services. These outcomes have already been submitted to several standard groups working on Discovery Services.

The team working on these deliverables in the context of the BRIDGE project is led by the Spanish organisation AT4 wireless and includes the Auto-ID Labs Cambridge and ETH Zurich, British Telecom, SAP, AIDA Centre and GS1 UK.

"Our vision is that Discovery Services will be an essential component to develop track and trace applications in a complex multi-vendor scenario. However standardization is a key issue to achieve wide deployment, and the work done in our work package can be considered as a noteworthy contribution at this early stage of the standardization process", said Miguel Angel Guijarro (AT4 wireless).

Further to these deliverables, research is being conducted to build on this work on Discovery Services: a working group led by the Auto-ID Labs Cambridge focuses on enhanced track and trace models for serial level control, and another, led by British Telecom looks at the security requirements and solutions at all levels of the EPCglobal Network architecture.

"The software prototype that is currently being designed and built by our working group will make use of Discovery Services and EPC Information Services to gather events from across the entire supply chain or product lifecycle. It will then use the accumulated data and user-defined rules to 'learn' the flow patterns for objects and use probabilistic algorithms to further enhance and refine this observation data to predict where individual objects are now, where they will be seen next – and also to provide pro-active alerting about delays and deviations", said Mark Harrison , Director of Auto-ID Labs Cambridge.

"In order to control and protect the exchange of information in the context of Discovery Services, we are developing flexible policy-driven security frameworks to enable innovative services and applications over shared information" added Andrea Soppera of British Telecom on behalf of the security working group.

BRIDGE public deliverables are available for download on the BRIDGE website: www.bridge-project.eu

Among the latest results and deliverables from BRIDGE is the production of a series of multimedia animations on the basic principles and benefits of the EPC/RFID technology along the supply chain. These animations are available as a special feature on the BRIDGE website.

Notes to Editors

BRIDGE consortium members:
GS1 Global Office – Consortium Co-ordinator.
Six GS1 Member Organisations – GS1 UK, GS1 Spain, GS1 France, GS1 Germany, GS1 Poland, GS1 China.
Five research laboratories – Auto-ID Lab Cambridge, UK; Auto-ID Lab Fudan University, Shanghai, China; Auto-ID Lab ETH Zurich/St Gallen, Switzerland; Polytechnic University of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain; Graz University of Technology, Austria.
Eleven solution providers - BT, SAP, AIDA Centre, CAEN, Confidex, AT4 wireless, UPM Raflatac, VeriSign UK, Melior Solutions, Domino Printing Sciences, JJ Associates.
Seven business end users - Carrefour, Nestlé UK, Benedicta, Kaufhof, Sony, Northland, Gardeur.
For more information visit www.bridge-project.eu

The BRIDGE Project
The Building Radio frequency IDentification solutions for the Global Environment (BRIDGE) project is being supported by the European Union's Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6) with €7,5 million funding. It is a three year initiative dedicated to research, development, training and demonstration in the effective use of RFID based on EPCglobal standards.

The BRIDGE project focuses on business-based research, provision of information services and hardware (sensors, tags) and software development. This will lead to pilots, deployment and comprehensive training materials in the use of RFID in a variety of business sectors.
In anti-counterfeiting – development of new services in the EPCglobal network will reduce the level of piracy of goods, which is a serious problem in Europe,
In pharmaceuticals - increasing patient safety by improving traceability, and certifying the pedigree of pharmaceutical products as they move from the manufacturer to the hospital pharmacy,
In the textile industry – better fulfilment of customers needs by increasing the flow and accuracy of information through a global supply chain,
In food manufacturing processes – reducing waste and stock holding and improving visibility and traceability of both products and equipment, thereby improving food safety,
In re-useable assets – improving information exchange and asset management between supply chain partners to effect reduction in losses and costs,
In products in-service – developing systems and processes to increase the reliability of the upgrade, repair and replacement processes throughout the life of many products,
In the retail environment – optimising processes in retail stores in order to increase service to the customer by using RFID on consumer sale units.

This is a great opportunity for Europe to build on a standardised RFID technology for use in global supply chains. The BRIDGE project will help make this happen by contributing to the development of new solutions for all businesses, from small to large. Improving skills and expertise on RFID technology and network information sharing will lead to enhanced competitiveness of European companies and to benefits to customer and citizen.

About the European Union's Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6)