



**EPC/RFID Pilot Program at the
European Pallet Association**

Completion

PRESS RELEASE



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The European Pallet Association has finalized the first phase of its EPC/RFID Pilot Program

***GS1 in Europe coordinated successfully the EPC/RFID Pilot Program in close
collaboration with EPAL, the association behind the “EURO” pallet***

Brussels, Belgium – November 17, 2008 – GS1 in Europe, a collaboration of 44 European GS1 member organisations, today announced the successful completion of the first phase of the EPAL EPC/RFID Pilot Program. The European Pallet Association is facing key challenges related to supply chain efficiency, asset visibility as well as safe and security initiatives which the EPC and RFID technology enables to solve. More specifically, EPAL is looking at possibilities to improve the control of production and repair of EURO pallets, to authenticate individual pallets, to reduce the number of counterfeit pallets, to streamline the administration and information exchange of users in the pool as well as to open new possibilities in the supply chain management.

There are currently over 500 Million wooden EURO-pallets in circulation. Under the control and license of EPAL, more than 60 million new pallets are produced per year by more than 400 producers in 30 countries and there are over 1.000 repair centres worldwide. The parties interested in quality approved EURO-pallets include producers, dealers, repairers, users, railways as well as transporters.

The objective of the EPAL EPC/RFID Pilot Program was to develop a business plan to clarify the integration of RFID tags in EPAL wooden pallets and specify a corresponding network as well as to reveal the necessary information about the technical and organisational implementation. All GS1 EPCglobal standards were involved including Gen2 tags, EPCIS and the ONS in Europe. The Pilot Program started in July 2008 and was recently completed. “We are very satisfied with the results of the pilot. The EPC/RFID technology, the tag concept and

the IT infrastructure have been approved and seen as a very good solution for EPAL. The second phase of the project will answer all the remaining questions and will help us to prepare a roll-out.” said Harry Jacobi, CEO of EPAL.

The partners participating in the EPAL Pilot Program included EPAL, GS1 in Europe, Swisscom, Oracle, Labelform and was realised at Holliger Pallet Logistics in Switzerland. More specifically, the GS1 organisations from Switzerland, Germany and France have supported EPAL with the definition, conception, and the static and dynamic testing of the EPC tags within the EECC lab.

Stephane Pique, European Director EPC/RFID of GS1 in Europe added: “We are very happy with the results and are looking forward to the pre-rollout phase. Nevertheless, there are still open issues to solve such as the amount of tags fixed on a pallet, the data stored on the tag, the handling of the SSCC and others which need to be solved within the next 6 month in order to enable a full rollout. There is a big need to align now our work with other pallet pools in order to create a standard beneficial to all the pallet users. Therefore, a specific interest group has been launched within GS1 EPCglobal.”

The successful completion of the EPAL EPC/RFID Pilot Program triggered the launch a second phase and also pre-roll out of the Program in 2009 involving additional countries and emphasising the finalization of the RFID tag as well as the development of a more detailed concept related to the processes, IT and RFID infrastructure.

Notes to the Editor:

About GS1 EPCglobal Standards:

GS1 EPCglobal standards are a set of integrated industry-driven standards which have been developed to meet user's requirements enabling the identification of objects, data capture and sharing of information among partners throughout the supply chain. These standards are developed within the framework of EPCglobal Inc.

About EPAL and UIC

EPAL, the European Pallet Association, is a not-for-profit organization which was founded in 1991 to work with UIC (the International Railway Association) to maintain a quality assurance and inspection standard for the pallet which is also known as the "EURO" pallet. The objective is to provide an exchangeable EUR pool pallet of sufficient quality with uniform exchange criteria for the supply chain. The association is active in Europe, USA, China, India and Australia with different types of Pallets.

For more information about EPAL, visit: www.epal-pallets.org

About GS1:

GS1 is a neutral, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards and solutions to improve the efficiency and visibility in supply chains. GS1 is driven by more than a million companies, who execute more than five billion transactions a day with the GS1 System of Standards. This makes it the most widely used supply chain standards system in the world.

For more information about GS1, visit: www.gs1.org

About GS1 in Europe:

GS1 in Europe is a collaboration of 44 GS1 member organisations. We lead the creation and implementation of harmonised, user-driven solutions for improving the supply and demand chain of European companies.

For more information about GS1 in Europe, visit: www.gs1eu.org



About EPCglobal Inc:

EPCglobal Inc is a subsidiary of the global not-for-profit standards organization GS1, and supports the global adoption of the Electronic Product Code as industry-driven standards to enable accurate, immediate and cost-effective visibility of information throughout the supply chain.

For more information about EPCglobal Inc, visit: www.epcglobalinc.org

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