



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

PRESS RELEASE



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The European Pallet Association starts EPC/RFID Pilot Program
*In cooperation with with the International Railway Association (UIC), EPAL, the
associations behind the “EURO” pallet,
is preparing an EPC/RFID Pilot Program which is expected to have
a significant impact on the European Supply Chain.*

Brussels, Belgium – 30th June, 2008 – The European Pallet Association is assuring as a not profit orientated service the quality of re-usable EURO-pallets throughout the world on uniform criteria including exchange. EPAL has the vision to identify each pallet individually as this will help to improve the control of production and repair, will allow a clear authentication, gives the users in the pool a valuable tool to control flow, quality and ownership of the pallets, and will open new possibilities in supply chain management. In order to achieve the vision EPAL has decided to explore the EPC/RFID technology.

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 centers worldwide. The parties interested in quality approved EURO-pallets include producers, dealers, repairers, users, railways as well as transporters.

In order to respond to market requirements and to get a better understanding about the future businessmodel, EPAL has decided to launch an EPC/RFID Pilot Program which is scheduled for July 2008. First results will be published at the EPC Europe Conference in Prague on November 5th 2008, an event which is organized by GS1 in Europe in cooperation with the RFID Journal Live! Europe. The partners participating in the EPAL Pilot Program includes EPAL, GS1 in Europe, Swisscom, Oracle, Labelform and will be 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.

Harry Jacobi, CEO of EPAL pointed out: “The standardised EPAL pallet is a key carrier in the supply chain of all industries. It was a logical step for us to use the GS1 EPCglobal standards for this pilot project. Some manufacturers and retailers have already shown their interest in exploring the benefits of the RFID tagged EURO-pallet.”

Stephane Pique, European Director EPC/RFID of GS1 in Europe added: “This project is very important to us and we are glad that EPAL has approached us to help them in the realisation. All GS1 EPCglobal standards will be involved including Gen2 tags, EPCIS and the ONS in Europe and therefore the project represents an important show case. I am convinced that the realisation of the full deployment of this project will have a major impact in the supply chain and overall in the RFID industry. More Pilots Programs complementing to this one are planned to be realised in the coming months.”

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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