

Press release

News from TRAX2.org

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Please see foot of release for contact details

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Immediate Release

TRAX2 receives MiFID approval from the Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM) of the Netherlands.

(London, UK) ICMA Limited, the market services division of the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) is pleased to announce TRAX2 has received full approval from the Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM) of the Netherlands in accordance with Article 25 of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID).

ICMA Ltd was awarded full approval by the AFM for MiFID reporting after completing extensive testing with the Dutch competent authority. The AFM is the third competent authority in the European Economic Area (EEA) to approve TRAX2 for MiFID reporting on behalf of its subscribers. TRAX2 was approved earlier by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) of the United Kingdom and the Autorité Des Marchés Financiers (AMF) of France. Since November 5, 2007 TRAX2 has been processing just under 1 million transactions a day with less than 1% rejection rate on behalf of its clients with the FSA.

Commenting on the AFM's approval Kevin Milne, Managing Director of ICMA Limited said: "This approval is very important to us, ICMA Ltd has invested considerable resources and time to ensure TRAX2 can meet the needs of multiple authorities. We are very pleased our clients, who have reporting obligations to the Netherlands, can now be compliant under MiFID".

More follows >

- Ends-

Notes for editors

1. TRAX2

TRAX2 is the post-trade, pre-settlement, trade matching & regulatory confirmation system for the OTC market. It processes all financial instruments/asset classes and is now available to both the sell-side and buy-side. TRAX2 offers full repo matching capabilities and is tailored to meet the reporting requirements of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID).

It has been awarded Approved Reporting Mechanism (ARM) status by the FSA and AMF. It operates as a reporting hub to multiple regulators (competent authorities) within the EU/EEA. TRAX2 builds on the success of the original TRAX system, successfully operated by ICMA Ltd since 1989, which has over 200 subscribers and processed over 45.5 million transactions in 2006 alone.

TRAX2 is available to any financial institution active in the international capital market, ICMA members and non members alike assisting financial institutions with their matching, reporting and regulatory requirements.

TRAX2 is the ideal trade matching and reporting solution it offers subscribers:

- Full repo matching capabilities (buy and sell-side)
- Rapid identification of problem trades and greatly reduced failed trades
- Regulatory reporting hub to facilitate MiFID Article 25
- Real time trade matching and reporting of bonds, derivatives and equities
- Real time exchange of standing settlement instructions (SSIs) between counterparties
- New ISO 15022/20022 messaging allowing for easy systems integration
- Highly competitive transaction costs

TRAX2 already offers reporting to:

- Financial Services Authority (FSA)
- Autorité Des Marchés Financiers (AMF)

For more information about TRAX2 visit www.TRAX2.org

2. International Capital Market Association (ICMA) Ltd

International Capital Market Association Ltd (ICMA Ltd) is a leading provider of operational risk management, trade matching, regulatory reporting and data services to the global capital market. ICMA Ltd has an established track record in providing innovative, secure and reliable systems for the financial services sector.

Formerly known as the AIBD (Systems and Information) Ltd and subsequently ISMA Ltd, it was established in 1985 and was one of the first providers of secure trade matching and regulatory reporting systems for the over the counter market (OTC). It has pioneered the development of the first repurchase (repo) automated trade matching system.

More follows >

3. Approved Reporting Mechanisms (ARMs)

The Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID), which replaced the former Investment Services Directive, has significantly changed the regulatory regime governing transaction reporting. It extended coverage of the regulatory regime to regulated markets in some areas (e.g. requiring the reporting of transactions in commodity instruments admitted to trading).

One of the important changes imposed by MiFID affects the regime governing the systems used by regulated firms to report transactions. In particular from November 1, 2007 onwards, MiFID requires all reportable transactions to be forwarded through systems which comply with Article 12 of the Level 2 Regulation. The FSA refers to transaction reporting systems collectively as Approved Reporting Mechanisms ("ARMs").

4. The Netherlands Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM)

The Netherlands Authority for the Financial Markets (the 'Authority') has been responsible for supervising the operation of the financial markets since March 1, 2002. This means that AFM supervises the conduct of the entire financial market sector: savings, investment, insurance and loans. By supervising the conduct of the financial markets, AFM aims to make a contribution to the efficient operation of these markets.

The efficient operation of the securities markets is a matter of public importance. The public, business and government depend on financial products that are offered in the markets for many of their activities. Confidence in the fair and orderly operation of those markets is vital and for this reason it is very important that the proper operation of these markets is supervised.

5. Contact details for further information

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