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## **GLOBAL REGISTRY ROADMAP GETS THE “GO AHEAD”**

The Management Board of EAN International, the global supply chain information management standards body, has unanimously agreed on the Global Registry Roadmap for EAN International, which takes the proposals for setting up a Global Registry one step closer to a target date of July 2004. The Global Registry is the key feature of a Global data Synchronisation Network.

The Global Registry is a global directory for item and party master data. Access to the Global Registry is limited to Data Pools that are certified as being compliant within the EAN.UCC standards. The Global Registry will be a component of the EAN.UCC Information Network, but will always operated under single governance.

The Oversight Committee appointed by EAN International and UCC Management Boards will be responsible for the strategic direction of GDSN, Certification, and other strategic issues.

EAN International will manage and govern the Global Registry service and will be responsible for the certification of Data Pools, while UCCnet will provide the Global Registry service, but it will be independent from any other application or service provided by UCCnet.

EAN Member Organisations (MO's) are the only entities that can provide this service. MO's participation in the Global Registry will be voluntary and there will be no time limit on when MOs can join the service since it will depend on local users driven demand.

MO's will participate in this service in two ways, either as Distribution Agents where they will be responsible for promotion, training, education and users' implementation support or as Distribution Agents and Electronic Catalogue providers. Here they will have the same responsibilities as Distribution Agents, but in addition, as Data Pool providers, they will need to successfully complete the EAN.UCC certification process and achieve compliancy.

*More follows.....*

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When the service is running and a full Global Data Synchronisation Network Service is provided it will meet the Global Commerce Initiative's (GCI) well publicised requirement that: "The integrity and timeliness of master data is critical for the uninterrupted flow of goods throughout the supply chain. Business transactions are greatly improved by having a standards based Global Data Synchronisation Network to support the flow of information between trading partners".

Miguel Lopera, EAN International's Chief Executive Officer, in welcoming the approval said: "This announcement emphasises the great progress we have made in the last year in driving our organisation forward. We are delivering the Electronic Product Code (EPC), having launched EPCglobal Inc, and now we can progress the final stages of the Global Registry, which will initiate a full Global Data Synchronisation Network. These successes raise our profile around the world considerably and add weight to our claim of being the leading global standards organisation in the field of supply chain improvement"

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

### EAN INTERNATIONAL

EAN International is the global not for profit organisation that creates, develops and manages the EAN•UCC standards jointly with the Uniform Code Council, one of its Member Organisations. These are open, global, multisectoral information standards, based on best business practices. By driving their implementation, EAN International and its Member Organisations play a leading role in supply and demand chain management improvement worldwide.

### THE EAN•UCC STANDARDS

The EAN•UCC Standards are an integral feature of the way business is conducted world-wide. Today, nearly one million member companies in 133 countries use EAN•UCC standards as an essential element of their daily business communications, representing over 5 billion scanning transactions a day. The supply chain solutions offered by the EAN•UCC Standards include globally unique identification codes, data transport media and electronic commerce and communications standards. These tools support established industries as well as emerging markets.

### EAN.UCC INFORMATION NETWORK (EIN).

As a result of the discussions to integrate the Global Registry and GEPIR, it is being proposed to create an EAN.UCC Information Network (EIN). This network would be the foundation for the exchange of master data within the global community. The network would be composed of certified data pools and local registries. The first to join the network will be GEPIR with its 64 country membership data pools already interconnected. This will increase to 65 after UCC has joined during the first quarter of 2004. The Global Registry, as defined by the GCI vision, is the registry for Global Data Synchronisation and will be the second entity to join. The EPC network will also be interconnected to link the EPC number back to the item information via the GTIN. Other registries could join later to serve specific industries, geographical needs, or new types of master data alignment. Access to the network is restricted to EAN.UCC company members.

### EPCglobal

EPCglobal, Inc., a joint venture between EAN International and the Uniform Code Council (UCC), is a not-for-profit organisation entrusted to drive the global, multi-industry adoption and implementation of the EPCglobal Network<sup>TM</sup>. EPCglobal leverages the nearly thirty-year heritage of EAN International and the UCC in successfully partnering with industry. The neutral, consensus-based, standards organisation aims to make organisations more effective by enabling true visibility of information about items in the supply chain by developing and managing standards for the EPCglobal Network.