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Information Builders Partners With Starthis to Deliver Real-Time Visibility Into the Supply

Combining WebFOCUS and iTapestry Reduces Manufacturing Errors, Latency, and Downtime, Creating a Efficient Manufacturing Plant Floor

TORONTO, Nov. 4 - Information Builders, the leader in enterprise business intelligence (BI) and real-time Web reporting, and Starthis, the industrial automation middleware company, today announced a strategic alliance focused on providing real-time plant floor reporting throughout the manufacturing enterprise. The companies offer an integrated technology-set that pulls data directly from the manufacturing floor, distributes the data to existing enterprise resources, and creates reports in the WebFOCUS business intelligence suite. Using this solution, real-time reports can now be generated instantaneously from plant floor data and delivered to the appropriate people throughout the manufacturing enterprise.

Starthis is the first and only provider of software to directly link Java 2 Enterprise Edition(TM) J2EE applications with industrial automation networks. WebFOCUS reads Starthis data tools from iWay Software - an Information Builders company - to accelerate business integration - then creates reports on the data collected directly from plant floor sensors and programmable logic controllers (PLC). The resulting solution allows rapid identification and resolution of manufacturing inefficiencies and/or problems.

"Understanding plant floor information is vital to the successful management of manufacturing operations, yet this information is typically not analyzed today," said David Naylor, CEO of Starthis. "Two reasons why Starthis and Information Builders offer this new level of insight are because of the advent of enterprise Java or J2EE and the emergence of industrial sensors. Sensors now monitor everything on the plant floor using barcode scanners, photo sensors, color sensors, and PLCs. Using WebFOCUS and iTapestry, enterprise executives gain a new perspective of the manufacturing floor by simply intelligently collecting and analyzing readily available data."

Starthis builds a bridge between disparate islands of automation on the plant floor to accommodate the flow of information from enterprise information systems. WebFOCUS turns the collected plant floor data into intelligent information that can be easily understood by anyone in the extended enterprise, including executives, suppliers, customers, or even the general public.

"This is another example of 'rings of data' inside an enterprise that can access and analyze critical information. In tying together Information Builders and Starthis technologies provides a unique snapshot of a manufacturer's world progress," said Gerald Cohen, CEO of Information Builders. "Imagine the value of customizable, detailed information on cycle time, uptime, downtime, pieces an hour, and error rate. We are providing a better understanding of the production process and drastically improving reaction time. This unprecedented new perspective into the manufacturing process translates into substantial annual savings for manufacturers, not to mention possibly generating new services that ultimately give them a competitive edge."

About Starthis

Starthis is a pioneer in industrial automation software for linking manufacturing enterprise software systems with a wide variety of programmable logic controllers and industrial automation networks used for machine control. Starthis is a provider of software that allows enterprise applications running on a Java 2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE) Application to communicate directly with industrial machines and controllers. The software enables improved information flow and factory process coordination. When implemented, the product makes U.S. manufacturers more efficient, nimble, and competitive. Further information about Starthis is available at <http://www.starthis.com/>.

About Information Builders Canada

Information Builders (Canada) Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Information Builders located in New York, N.Y. Information Builders is the leader in enterprise business intelligence and real-time Web reporting. The company's WebFOCUS is the industry's most secure and flexible - meets all the reporting needs of the extended enterprise, ranging from an individual power user to the widest deployments for hundreds of thousands of users. WebFOCUS' empowerment of organizations seeking to leverage all their data by accessing it all - from legacy to data warehouse - is unmatched.

Information Builders' award-winning technology has successfully provided quality software and superior services for more than 11,000 customers, including most of the Fortune 100 and U.S. federal government agencies. With 90 offices worldwide, the company employs 1,750 people, has over 350 business partners, and generated revenues exceeding \$100 million.

million in 2002.

Headquartered in Toronto, Information Builders Canada is responsible for direct sales, consulting services, marketing education and primary support of all Information Builders products in Canada. The company has offices in Toronto, Ottawa, Victoria, Calgary and Vancouver, and employs over 70 people. For more information, visit <http://www.informationbuilders.com/>

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