

AZURE SOLUTIONS AND ESI PARTNER FOR BILLING VERIFICATION

Submitted by: Pirate Communications

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Azure Solutions, the revenue-assurance company, today announced that it has signed a partnership agreement with ESI (Expert Solutions International), a software company specialising in computer embedded knowledge-based solutions. Under the terms of the agreement Azure will be providing billing verification for operators, using ESI's ExpeRA invoice verification tool, therefore further expanding its revenue-assurance portfolio.

ExpeRA enables operators to detect errors and discrepancies throughout the revenue chain from the product design stage up through to billing. This allows operators to avoid under/overcharging customers and to be able to produce accurate invoices, solving profitability and liability problems before they happen.

Azure's principal objective is to enable communications operators worldwide to reduce losses and safeguard profits from malicious and unintentional revenue leakage. Azure's end-to-end revenue-assurance product portfolio for current-generation networks includes Data Integrity, Wholesale and Interconnect Billing, International Settlements, Fraud Management, Mediation Management, Translation and Rating, Event Integrity and Route Optimisation.

Saul Nurtman, senior vice president of products at Azure Solutions, said: "Billing verification plays a very important part in revenue assurance, as operators need to effectively locate billing discrepancies otherwise they risk losing significant revenue, possibly on an ongoing basis. We are very pleased to be working with ESI it continues Azure's strategy of working with partners to provide customers with best-in-class solutions."

Uri Keren, CEO of ESI, said: "We are delighted to have signed an agreement with Azure. Its heritage within the telecoms market will open up a wealth of expertise and sales opportunities for us."

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About Azure Solutions (www.azuresolutions.com)

Azure Solutions is the world's largest revenue-assurance company. It is headquartered in London, with people in Westminster (Colorado), Ipswich, Paris, Frankfurt, Madrid, Barcelona, Islamabad, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Singapore, Sydney and Melbourne. Azure's end-to-end revenue-assurance product portfolio for current-generation networks includes Data Integrity, Wholesale and Interconnect Billing, International Settlements, Fraud Management, Mediation, Management, Translation and Rating, Event Integrity and Route Optimisation. Azure has launched Azure Inter-Party Management as the first product in its next-generation portfolio. Azure provides individual products or complete revenue-assurance solutions using a common platform and any combination of products that a customer might need. Customers can choose a system that they own and operate themselves or a bureau that Azure manages on their behalf. Azure has over 60 customers across the world comprising PTTs, mobile operators, national operators, carrier's carrier and cable TV companies. Azure has significant carrier experience and understands the problems faced by all these operators.

The company's heritage can be traced back to BT in the early 1990s. Azure was spun out of BT in April

2003 and is backed by New Venture Partners.

Recently Azure won the 'Best Revenue-Assurance Project' award at the World Billing Awards 2005 in London, and 'Most Promising Company' at the TeleStrategies Billing & OSS World Excellence Awards 2005 in Philadelphia.

About ESI (www.esi-knowledge.com)

ESI is a software company with an extensive and proven experience in developing innovative knowledge based solutions based on its own proven technology. ESI's comprehensive line of products enables better utilization of the organization's knowledge assets and an improved decision-making process. ESI's mission is to help organizations leverage their hidden knowledge assets and their competitive edge to optimize business effectiveness and performance. With ESI products are:

Logist - Our leading BRE - Business Rule Engine platform. Business rules are making a strong climb in the last couple of years. Within this market, Logist is ranked among the innovators. Among Logist's unique features are its user oriented business rules development environment and enterprise application integration capabilities. Logist is used for applications such as Audit Systems, HR & Eligibility, Fraud Detection, Data Cleansing and IT Security.

ExpeRA – A bill Audit solution for telecom operators. Analysts estimate that between 2% to 8% of the overall Telco operators' revenues – around \$22B-\$91B according to the Yankee Group estimates - are being lost on an annual basis. New regulations such as Sarbanes Oxley and local billing regulations drive the need for auditing of all client invoices to protect the vendor and its clients from the risks involved in making billing errors. ExpeRA is a software product that automates and streamlines the Bill-Audit process.

Ingeneo – A real time cross/up sell recommendation engine that helps financial institutions and telecom operators to turn precious inbound customer calls and service interactions into proactive sales and business opportunities by delivering customer-focused marketing products, services and programs (leveraging the fact that the customer has initiated the contact and is therefore likely to be more receptive to the targeted and personalized marketing message).

ESI offers proven track record of successful deployment of products and solutions for markets such as Finance, Health, Telecom, & Government.

ESI is a member of The Formula Group (NASDAQ: FORTY) which has over 4,500 employees and offices worldwide.

Further information

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