“Beyond SMS”
Instant Messaging on Mobile Devices

Java technology is starting to play a pivotal role in the ongoing wireless revolution. Mobile handsets and PDA’s pose a number of new challenges that the code portability and the secure execution environment offered by Java technology can help to tackle. With the Java 2 Micro Edition (J2ME), SUN Microsystems has created a powerful development and deployment platform for mobile devices.

The Mobile Instant Messenger is a fully-functional Java technology application developed by Ergon Informatik AG. Its contact-list- and group-based communication are a natural extension of the well-known SMS service. Additionally, it provides location-based user lists and personal profiles that allow users to find new friends wherever they go.

The built-in ‘over-the-air’ multiparty games share the same JMS-based instant messaging technology used for message exchange. New games can share the same infrastructure and can be added with minimal effort. Games have been a huge success for NTT Docomo’s i-appli service, and downloadable games in Europe exhibit the same success.

The underlying push technology leads to significantly faster response times than current WAP based solutions. User-satisfaction tests have shown that, through Ergon’s push technology, today’s GSM networks provide ample responsiveness. In most situations the propagation delay for a game ‘move’ or message from one user to another will be under 1 second.

**Connectivity:** The application connects to the back-end messaging servers with standard TCP/IP. Special care has been taken to minimize the required communication bandwidth and memory usage on the mobile device. In areas where 2.5G packet-oriented networks such as GPRS are available, the messenger can remain ‘always on’ at minimal cost.

**MIDP:** The application conforms to J2ME and MIDP standards. This guarantees portability between all Java-enabled handsets supporting the MIDP standard. MIDP-compliant handsets are available today from Motorola, Siemens and Nokia.

**Company Information:** Ergon Informatik AG (http://www.ergon.ch), is a leading software development company with headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland, and a subsidiary in Sausalito, California. Its staff of 70 professional software engineers is dedicated to the development of mission-critical solutions for the financial and telecommunication markets. With its focus on business solutions for heterogeneous computing environments, Ergon is leading the development of several large-scale applications using advanced Java technology. Credit Suisse and UBS, two of Ergon’s key customers, are amongst the world’s top ten financial institutions. Ergon has developed a range of Internet projects for Credit Suisse, including the Internet-banking solution DIRECT NET, and the discount broker Youtrade. With Youtrade’s J2ME based mobile trading client for the Palm Organizer, Ergon extended its Java technology leadership into the mobile industry.

**Further Information:**
Sales:  Alois Sauter  VP Sales & Marketing  sauter@ergon.ch  +41 1 268 89 54
Technical:  Jakob Magun  Senior Software Engineer  magun@ergon.ch  +41 1 268 89 36

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