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The HomePlug Powerline Alliance Selects France Telecom's Turbo Code Program in Its AV Specification

SAN RAMON, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb. 8, 2005--France Telecom (NYSE:FTE) a world leading communications carrier and innovator through its research and development group, congratulates the HomePlug(R) Powerline Alliance on the adoption of Turbo Codes in the HomePlug AV specification. HomePlug AV provides broadband home networking, enabling connectivity and distribution of HDTV, Digital Audio, and Internet access throughout the home via existing power lines.

The requirements of the HomePlug Powerline Alliance were some of the most demanding in today's highly competitive, home networking marketplace. These requirements include data rates of up to two hundred (200) Mbps to support multiple HDTV streams and the distribution of data throughout a home over existing power lines. The Alliance is achieving these goals while also providing these requirements at a low price point, for a cost sensitive market.

"We are very pleased to have worked with the HomePlug Alliance from an early stage regarding Turbo Codes," stated Francois Jamet, Director of Intellectual Property and Licensing for France Telecom. "We congratulate them on the significant milestone achieved in entering the final stage of the AV specification process."

The advanced preliminary specification for HomePlug AV is the culmination of the combined efforts and melding of technical contributions from several manufacturers to create a single best-in-class technology. "The HomePlug Alliance selected the best technical elements from a variety of contributions," said Oleg Logvinov, president of the Alliance and also president and CEO of Arkados, Inc. a subsidiary of CDKnet.com. "Turbo Codes provide a market tested and cost effective solution that achieve exceptional performance and higher throughput."

Invented by Claude Berrou and Alain Glavieux, Turbo Codes have power efficiencies approaching the theoretical "Shannon limit." Turbo Codes represent a revolutionary form of forward error correction (FEC), one of the fundamental building blocks of any type of digital communication, and have been widely recognized and honored for this technological innovation. Turbo Codes provide higher data throughput and increased range for any digital broadband application. These advantages combined with increasing bandwidth demands, as well as the maturity and understanding of the technology have led to the adoption of Turbo Codes in communications standards ranging from cellular telecommunications (CDMA2000 and W-CDMA), satellite (DVB-RCS, CCSD), broadband wireless (802.16), and most recently to home powerline networking (HomePlug AV).

In order to make available its related intellectual property, France Telecom established the Turbo Code Licensing Program (TCLP). The TCLP is administered by Spectra Licensing Group as the single, worldwide licensing agent. For more information on regarding the Turbo Code Licensing Program, please visit Spectra's website at <http://www.spectralicensing.com>.

About France Telecom

France Telecom is one of the world's leading telecommunications carriers, with 121.5 million customers on the five continents (220 countries and territories) and consolidated operating revenues of 46.1 billion euros for 2003 (23.2 billion euros for 1st semester 2004). Through its major international brands, including Orange, Wanadoo, Equant and GlobeCast, France Telecom provides businesses, consumers and other carriers with a complete portfolio of solutions that spans local, long-distance and international telephony, wireless, Internet, multimedia, data, broadcast and cable TV services.

France Telecom is the second-largest wireless operator and Internet access provider in Europe, and a world leader in telecommunications solutions for multinational corporations. France Telecom (NYSE:FTE) is listed on the Paris and New York stock exchanges.

France Telecom puts technological innovation at the heart of its concerns. With 3 600 researchers and almost

7100 patents, its R&D is the engine of its innovation capability, in France and abroad. Its role is to anticipate technological revolutions and new uses, providing innovation to offer customers the best from telecommunications, simultaneously imagining today the technologies, which will be part of their daily life tomorrow. Its R&D's results have put the Group in the leading position in Europe in terms of telecommunications research and development. Established on 16 sites, including 8 abroad (London, San Francisco, Boston, Tokyo, Warsaw, Beijing, Seoul, and New Delhi), the researchers of France Telecom are involved in the design and the development of approximately 70% of the products of the group.
<http://www.rd.francetelecom.fr>

About the HomePlug Powerline Alliance

The HomePlug Powerline Alliance, Inc. is a consortium industry-leading companies working to develop the global market for interoperable, standards-based powerline communications technologies. The Alliance's Board member companies include Arkados, Inc. a subsidiary of CDKNet.com, Inc. (OTC BB:CDKN), Cogency Semiconductor, Comcast (CMCSK), Conexant (CNXT), DS2, EarthLink (ELNK), Intellon, RadioShack (RSH), and Sharp (SHCPFM). For information about specifications, product certification, and how to join, visit <http://www.homeplug.org>

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Contacts

Global Inventures for HomePlug Powerline Alliance
Tonya Hawes, 925-275-6684
thawes@inventures.com

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