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PrimeKey and nCipher deliver security solution to the Ministry of Defence (DGA) in Paris to protect online trading exchange

Stockholm, Sweden and Cambridge, UK – 18 January 2006 – PrimeKey Solutions AB, a Swedish IT security company and nCipher plc (LSE:NCH), a leading provider of cryptographic security solutions, today announced they have delivered a security solution to Délégation Générale de l'Armement (DGA), part of the French Ministry of Defence in Paris, to secure its online trading exchange.

“The DGA online trading exchange, which is handled by the French Ministry of Defence, is considered one of the largest public marketplaces in Europe with the Ministry of Defence purchasing between 15 to 17 billion euros of goods and equipment each year.” says Emmanuelle Plessiet, Project Manager and member of the Portail de l'Armement team, Délégation Générale pour l'Armement. “The operational costs that are saved by deploying an online portal, in terms of both time and paperwork are enormous, but the levels of security cannot be comprised.”

This virtual marketplace is split into two portals; www.ixarm.com, the armament portal which handles armed forces equipment, and www.achats.defense.gouv.fr which is primarily focused on procuring general equipment and supplies including, fuel, healthcare products, food and clothing. The two portals are connected to a single online trading exchange where all calls for tender are submitted electronically.

DGA selected a PKI solution based on PrimeKey's open source project, EJBCA, integrated with nCipher's nShield™ hardware security modules (HSMs) to provide a high-performance and tamper-resistant environment for the associated cryptographic processes. In such a security-conscious industry sector great emphasis is put on the fundamental security of the exchange, the ability to positively identify users and authenticate tender documents. The PrimeKey PKI solution issues the digital certificates which enable users to access and sign tenders by proving integrity and authenticity. The private keys used to sign these certificates are securely stored and managed inside nCipher's nShield HSM. The signed data can neither be modified nor altered during the transaction ensuring the integrity of the transmitted information. The delivery of the PKI solution was co-ordinated by local French IT-consultancy firm Linagora.

“A successful online portal is one that can be trusted,” says Ciarán Stapleton, Sales Director at nCipher. “The combination of PrimeKey's PKI solution and nCipher's HSMs has enabled DGA to offer a secure online trading exchange. We are pleased to have been able to work with PrimeKey to deliver the solution selected and deployed by DGA.”

“The online trading portal has very stringent security requirements and we are delighted to have been chosen to deliver this solution together with nCipher. PrimeKey has integrated EJBCA with nCipher's nShield HSM to provide a secure portal protected from both internal and external threats,” says, Konstantin Papaxanthis, Chief Executive Officer at PrimeKey. “Also, we are very glad to mention that hundreds of companies and organizations around the world are now downloading and using EJBCA in their operations. To date we have had over 28,000 downloads and this figure is growing daily. Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) running EJBCA is very low.”

About PrimeKey Solutions AB

PrimeKey Solutions AB is a Swedish IT-security company with niched competence in information and system security and product development within Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and smart card appliances. PrimeKey's vision is to provide state-of-the-art solutions that integrate with customer application environments. We help our customers and partners to solve concrete business needs in a cost-effective way, with strong emphasis on security issues. Our goal is to maintain and improve our position as leaders, in providing security solutions and services, by employing the resources at our disposal combined with our unique expertise.

www.primekey.se

About nCipher

nCipher is a leading provider of cryptographic security, enabling our customers to meet the challenges of verifying identity, protecting data and complying with security regulations. nCipher's solutions provide a unified approach to cryptographic management providing strict access controls and high assurance trusted processing, overcoming traditional issues of scalability, performance and weak platform security. The world's leading organizations work with nCipher to protect security critical systems such as web site infrastructure, online banking and payment processing networks, PKI, web services, databases and digital rights management schemes.

nCipher is the winner of the Microsoft Security Solution of the Year award 2004. The company is listed on the London Stock Exchange (LSE:NCH) and is a member of the FTSE TechMARK index with offices in Cambridge, UK; Boston, Washington, Hamburg and Tokyo. For more information on nCipher, visit www.ncipher.com.