



**Press release – for intermediate release**

**stethos acquires s.a.x. Solutions from Karlsruhe / Germany**

SINDELFINGEN, Germany, 16th of January 2006 - stethos GmbH., developer and solution provider of Output Management Solutions acquires s.a.x. Solutions GmbH of Karlsruhe, Germany on the 1st of January 2006. Both parties agreed not to publish the purchase price. Besides the fact that stethos now is responsible for the operative business from s.a.x. Solutions, stethos is also the new owner of the Output Management Software which was developed by s.a.x. Solutions for the SMB market. This software is planned to be completely integrated in 2006 into the W-ELP (Windows Enhanced Laser Printing) product which is developed and maintained by stethos. Existing customers of s.a.x. Solutions can now access the stethos printing solutions portfolio and will benefit from the knowledge of stethos consultation services. With this acquisition stethos strengthens its portfolio and shows itself as a key player in the market for Output Management solutions. As a direct result of this synergy stethos expects a double digit percentage growth in terms of sales and revenues within the first year. Existing contracts of s.a.x. Solutions will be fulfilled, and in the medium-term it is planned for all s.a.x. solution business to be migrated to stethos and the name s.a.x. Solutions itself to be phased out of the market.

About stethos:

Since the founding of stethos GmbH. in 1991 in Sindelfingen near Stuttgart, Germany the company has become an authorized Hewlett-Packard (HP) Solution Business Partner (SBP). stethos a company who specialises in printing, copying and digital sending solutions. Besides the development and distribution of Output Management solutions stethos offers professional consulting services. The main objective is provide services for customers to achieve cost savings by optimizing their "document workflow" processes by utilising intelligent printing solutions. Due to the fact that there is a huge demand in the market for such solutions stethos has had an above average increase in revenue and sales in the past since the company's foundation.

Note to editors:

stethos is a registered trademark.

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