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Companies Merge to Create Symbio, A Global Leader in Next-Generation Outsourced Product Development

Merger Provides Strategic IT Near-Shoring and Offshoring to Accommodate Changing Global Enterprise Supply Chain

BEIJING, China, SAN JOSE, Calif., USA and TAMPERE, Finland – September 23, 2009

Symbio Group, a leading Web and enterprise software outsourced product development (OPD) company, Flander, a leading mobile and embedded software development company, and Ardites, a leading expert in user experience technologies, today announced a definitive agreement to merge the three companies to create Symbio. As one of the world's largest outsourced product development companies, Symbio formed to meet the needs of leading global enterprises that demand converged technology solutions, richer user experiences, high-quality strategy and design, and the most cost-effective outsourced product development solutions.

Delivering Deep Domain Expertise in Enterprise Technology Convergence

Symbio provides software engineering and product co-creation solutions across the entire product lifecycle, from ideation and development to user experience, testing and scaling. In addition to expanding global reach, Symbio integrates domain expertise, strategic consulting and design engineering talent across mobile, Web, enterprise and embedded technologies. World-leading companies like China Mobile, IBM, Microsoft and Nokia already trust and rely on Symbio for expert technology innovation and cost-effective execution.

"While achieving dramatic success in the past five to ten years, the offshore IT services market, and the players competing in this space, are faced with an unprecedented set of economic forces and changing customer needs that is forcing this industry to make dramatic changes in their businesses to ensure both short- and long-term growth," said David Tapper, vice president for Outsourcing and Offshore Services at IDC. "IDC believes that success for these players will reside in their ability to either find niche areas of focus or scale up and provide end-to-end capabilities with stronger local (developed market) presence and a greater focus on outsourced/managed services, which increasingly includes provisioning of services in the form of utility-based offerings."

"Markets and technologies are converging and disrupting industries, while creating new opportunities for businesses. That's why Symbio was formed, to deliver innovation, expertise and cost-effective execution on a global scale," said Jacob Hsu, CEO of Symbio. "In today's business world, it's not just about labor arbitrage. Our merger adds significant scale and extensive combined expertise across technologies, geographies, and industries – it's a win-win for large enterprises that don't have the resources to support full-time development that convergence demands. We look forward to delivering broad, innovative solutions to our global enterprise clients across their local, national and global communities."

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Massive Global Scale, Unique Local Touch

Symbio clients can hedge geopolitical risks by leveraging both offshoring and near-shoring expertise to address key product development priorities across the US, Europe and Asia. This approach ensures project confidentiality, trusted infrastructure management, maintenance, support and quality assurance that maximize value for enterprises by embracing their local and global supply chain strategies. Symbio fast facts:

- Global headquarters in Beijing, San Jose, and Tampere
- Expanding footprint of 22 locations
- Seven R&D centers in Finland and Sweden
- Five offshore development centers in mainland China, Taiwan, and Bangladesh

“The merger delivers the scale, resources and domain expertise needed to meet the rising demand for outsourced product development,” said Markus Suomi, President and COO of Symbio. “With our ability to manage the full product lifecycle, we provide a truly global OPD environment for our enterprise clients who seek premier talent, unique strategic and vertical-specific expertise, a richer user experience and very cost-effective execution. Symbio is well positioned to lead the converged OPD market globally, with the extension of onshore and offshore services across the markets our enterprise clients care about most – the US, Europe and Asia.”

Expanded Portfolio of Services

Bringing a collective 34 years of software development expertise to the worldwide market, Symbio is unveiling new global practices in Mobile & Embedded Software, Internet, Enterprise & Industrial Applications, QA, Testing & Globalization and Test Systems. Its cradle-to-grave service portfolio now includes:

- Product Design
- Product Engineering
- Product Extensions
- Quality Assurance
- Test Services
- Globalization/Localization
- Test and Measurement Systems
- Center of Excellence
- Technical Support

About Symbio

Symbio designs and develops feature-rich products for companies embracing transformational advances in communications and technology. By leveraging its deep expertise in enterprise, embedded, mobile, Web-based and user experience driven technologies, Symbio enables its clients to focus on their core competencies while building mission-critical technologies and products to sustain, speed and secure the long-term success for the business. World-leading companies like China Mobile, IBM, Microsoft and Nokia already rely on Symbio for faster, innovative, and highly cost-effective IT outsourcing. With global headquarters in Beijing, China, San Jose, USA, and Tampere, Finland, Symbio is the outsourced product development partner companies trust to deliver truly integrated global reach with local touch. For more information about Symbio, visit www.symbio.com.

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