

For Immediate Release

MAURITIUS CARGO COMMUNITY SERVICES Ltd (MCCS) announces strategic partnership with SOGET SA to facilitate and secure trade.

Port Louis, Mauritius – January 25, 2008

Francois de Grivel, Chairman of the Board of MCCS is pleased to announce the launch of **MCCS**, a public-private sector trade facilitation project that addresses three national objectives:

- improvement of the competitiveness of Mauritian products;
- development of Mauritius as a regional trade and transport hub;
- implementation of World Customs Organisation SAFE Framework of Standards to secure the international supply chain

Founding shareholders of MCCS Ltd are The Mauritius Export Association (**MEXA**), The Mauritius Chamber of Commerce (**MCCI**), State Investment Corporation Ltd (**SIC**), Mauritius Port Authority (**MPA**), Cargo Handling Corporation Ltd (**CHC**), Customs House Brokers Association (**CHBA**), Mauritian Shipping Agents Association (**APAMM**) and **SOGET SA**, which fully reflect the public-private character of this initiative.

MCCS announces that it has signed a **strategic partnership agreement** with **SOGET SA**, a world-leading software engineering company specialized in Cargo Community Systems, Port Supply Chain and Supply Chain Security. **SOGET** is headquartered in **Le Havre** where the container traffic grew 26% in 2007. This strategic partnership will enable **MCCS** to implement and operate the Cargo Community System (CCS) AP+ in Mauritius.

SOGET AP+ CCS is a new generation of real time information system that optimizes, orchestrates and secures supply chain business processes for cargo stakeholders. The CCS will provide advance electronic cargo information on cargo and container shipments to Customs for more effective and timely identification of high risk cargo.

SOGET AP+ CCS benefits to Mauritius will be as follows:

- Elimination of inefficient manual processes with significant productivity gains to logistics service providers.

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- Streamlined Customs procedures in compliance with the World Customs Organisation SAFE framework of standards for trade facilitation.
- Implementation of the Authorized Economic Operator concept to allow improved US and EU market access by providing advanced electronic cargo information to Foreign Customs services.
- Increased competitiveness for manufacturers and exporters.
- Facilitation of transshipment cargo.

The launching of **MCCS** coincides with International Customs Day (January 26th) and is a concrete example of the public and private sectors working together to address national objectives across the trade, transport and logistics sectors.

The strategic partnership between **MCCS** and **SOGET** is in tune with the new economic model of Mauritius and it lends support to the transition of the economy in Mauritius. It will contribute to the modernization of a key sector of economy, while streamlining procedures, increasing transparency and transferring know-how through customs and logistics training. The strategic partnership will also be a tremendous opportunity for Mauritius to acquire skills, create new jobs, and support a fast growing logistics industry.

It also translates the commitment of the French Government to support Mauritius in the implementation of its new economic strategy. Through this transfer of know-how Mauritius will strive to become the most secured transport hub in the Indian Ocean.

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