

Next step in Ericsson and Microsoft alliance – Launch of Ericsson Microsoft Mobile Venture AB

- Mobile e-mail on the market by end of the year

Ericsson and Microsoft today launched Ericsson Microsoft Mobile Venture AB. This previously announced joint company will drive the mobile Internet by developing and marketing mobile e-mail solutions for operators. The first solutions will be on the market by the end of the year. The company is part of a broader strategic alliance between Ericsson and Microsoft.

Preparations for the joint company have been ongoing for the past months. A management team is now in place, recruitment has begun, and operations are running. Further, the EU Commission has reported that the formation of the joint company will not be subject to EC merger review filing, which means that the legal entity can be formed.

Ericsson Microsoft Mobile Venture AB is headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, and will have regional centers around the world. Ulf Avrin from Ericsson is president of the company. Ericsson and Microsoft will hold 70 and 30 percent share in the company respectively.

The company will develop solutions, based on Ericsson's and Microsoft's products that enable mobile operators to offer easy-to-use and secure mobile e-mail to both corporate and consumer customers. The solutions will also include calendar, to-do lists and other personal information management tools, and will provide professional users with full mobile access to corporate data. The first solutions are expected to be commercially available for mobile operators by the end of 2000.

The solutions will integrate Microsoft Windows 2000® Server and Microsoft Exchange® platforms with Ericsson's infrastructure and mobile Internet technologies. The company will provide solutions for mobile operators' existing networks. Ericsson and Microsoft will sell the solutions to operators worldwide, which gives the Mobile Venture a strong global customer reach. Ericsson and Microsoft are already cooperating with some of the largest mobile operators in Europe.

"Mobile e-mail should be as easy as talking on a mobile phone, which is basically what we will help the mobile operators deliver to their customers," said Ulf Avrin, president of Ericsson Microsoft Mobile Venture AB. "There is broad recognition that mobile e-mail is one of the key applications that are needed to create a mobile Internet mass market. We already have discussions with leading operators, that show a strong interest in these types of solutions."

Ericsson estimates that mobile phones and other mobile devices will surpass consumer PCs as the main Internet tool by 2003, and that the number of mobile Internet subscribers will reach 1 billion by 2005. Today, e-mail is one of the most important Internet applications, with more than 435 million e-mail boxes in use (source: Messaging Online Inc.).

“Microsoft’s vision is to work together with mobile operators in order to provide knowledge workers and consumers faster and easier access to mobile e-mail and other mobile data services – by realizing the promise of information anytime, anywhere and on any device,” said Paul H. Gross, senior vice president, Mobility Division at Microsoft Corporation. “As the world leader in mobility and mobile communications, Ericsson is an ideal partner to help deliver this vision.”

“This unique venture between Ericsson and Microsoft is clear proof of the marriage between mobility and Internet into the new era of mobile Internet – Ericsson’s key strategic focus,” said Lars Boman, vice president and general manager, Internet Applications at Ericsson. “Providing people with e-mail anywhere, anytime will serve as a strong driver for the new mobile Internet market, and we are in a lead position to benefit from this growth.”

Ericsson Microsoft Mobile Venture AB is a major step in the strategic alliance between Ericsson and Microsoft. The alliance also includes cooperation on the use of the Microsoft Mobile Explorer browser for Ericsson’s feature phones, licensing of Ericsson’s WAP technology for use in Microsoft’s solutions, and distribution of Microsoft Outlook™ together with applicable Ericsson phones. As part of the cooperation, the two companies also work jointly to support open standards and new technologies such as Bluetooth™, WAP and UpnP (Universal Plug & Play).

PRESS CONFERENCE & CONFERENCE CALLS TODAY

A joint press conference will be held today Monday, 11 September 2000 at Ericsson, Telefonvägen 30, at 11:00 a.m. Stockholm time (CET).

Conference calls will be held at 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. CET.

Conference call at 3:00 p.m. CET:

Europe: +44 8700559364 or +44 8700559384. US: +1 8889373934

Conference call at 6:00 p.m. CET:

Europe: +44 8700559385 or +44 8700559397. US: +1 8889375291

Replay:

Europe: +44 1415668866 – enter client id no.: #503 and pass code: 654#

US: +1 800 6338284 – enter reservation no.: #16294231

(Replay is available from Sep 11, 7:00 p.m. to Sep 13, 7:00 p.m. CET)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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About Ericsson Microsoft Mobile Venture AB

Ericsson Microsoft Mobile Venture AB will drive the mobile Internet by developing, integrating and marketing mobile e-mail solutions to network operators. These solutions benefit users in an increasingly mobile society by addressing the need for anytime, anywhere access to important business and personal information. The mobile venture is headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, and has plans to open regional centers around the world starting in the United States and Europe. Read more at www.em-mobileventure.com

About Ericsson

Ericsson is the leading communications supplier, combining innovation in mobility and Internet in creating the new era of mobile Internet. Ericsson provides total solutions covering everything from systems and applications to mobile phones and other communications tools. With more than 100,000 employees in 140 countries, Ericsson simplifies communications for customers all over the world. Read more at www.ericsson.se/pressroom

About Microsoft

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal and business computing. The company offers a wide range of products and services designed to empower people through great software — any time, any place and on any device.

Note to editors:

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