

Stockholm, 2 October, 2000

IBS launches tomorrow's software for supply chain excellence in the digital world

IBS new software concept, ASW Virtual Enterprise, offers a broad range of possibilities for the handling of new and evolving business models and supply chain set-ups, integrating an unlimited number of companies, customers, suppliers, portals and business partners via the Internet.

This multiple-platform software is based on IBM's WebSphere Business Components, which is founded on the so-called SanFrancisco technology. ASW Virtual Enterprise, which is developed in Java, can be used completely integrated with IBS' ASW business software or with ERP systems from other vendors.

- The initial target group is mainly large and mid-sized companies, wishing to tap into the new opportunities opened up by the extended integration of commerce and supply chain operations within the new digital economy, says Staffan Ahlberg, CEO of the IBS Group.

- We have already experienced a very positive market acceptance from a number of larger customers and industry observers, says Magnus Wastenson, VP International Marketing, the IBS Group. Collaborative relationships will enable trading partners to work together across the supply chain, improving service, speeding up deliveries and cutting transaction costs. All this is of primary interest to businesses around the world, and with the Virtual Enterprise concept, unprecedented opportunities will open up for them. Businesses that embrace the collaborative commerce model now, will lead the economy of the future.

Virtual Enterprise covers support for a whole group's or a group of companies' digital commerce and supply chain operations. The new collaborative software allows direct integration with all kinds of data sources, software, business portals and mobile devices such as WAP phones and Palm Pilots. It also includes modelling tools for analysis and benchmarking, event-driven alerts, as well as features that provide an overview of the entire distribution and logistics chain. The collaborative system handles both virtual and more traditional business operations.

Delivery of the new collaborative software will commence early next year, with components for Collaborative Sales, Collaborative Procurement and Supply Chain Visibility.

Collaborative commerce is the next phase in global e-business operations, exploiting all the new technological opportunities that are opened by fast and inexpensive Internet communication. New, open software and systems offer vast opportunities for automation and integration of business processes and transactions. Such digital communication, directly between computers, will become a natural element in business operations. We

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PRESS RELEASE

will see the evolution of today's still fairly manual business society into a more automated environment, where integration of digital information and processes is key to increased competitiveness and profitability.

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IBS AB, with headquarters in Stockholm, is listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange. The IBS Group is a world-leading international supplier of web-enabled business and supply chain management software and professional services for large and mid-sized companies. IBS has some 2,400 employees and 5,000 customers in more than 40 countries.

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