



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Brussels, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2002

### **I.R.I.S. Group and Softline UK Ltd. sign a contract for the distribution of I.R.I.S.' OCR products in Great Britain and Ireland**

**Brussels, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2002** – I.R.I.S. Group, a publicly traded Belgian company (Euronext Brussels: IRI), market leader in Automatic Document Recognition (ADR), Electronic Document Management (EDM), Archiving and Storage and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and Softline UK Ltd, an IT specialist distributor in England, announce today the signature of a contract for the distribution of I.R.I.S. OCR products in Great Britain and Ireland.

Softline UK Ltd is located in England and will provide the necessary infrastructure for I.R.I.S. OCR products to enter the UK market. Softline acts as a consolidating distributor to large UK channel partners, notably Dixons Stores Group, John Louis Partnership, PC World and selected UK resellers.

Softline is distributing a large range of Mac based products and is more and more focusing on the distribution of PC softwares and hardwares.

Softline UK will distribute the following I.R.I.S. products:

#### **IRISPen II standard and executive version for PC and Mac OS X**

The IRISPen II is the first USB pen sized scanner on the market. Simply by sliding the Pen over a line of text or figures you want in the application of your choice you get a real editable text right at the cursor position. The Pen is a time saving tool as it is 30 times faster than retyping. It is the simplest way to enter text and figures.

The pen scanner is available in the Standard version that reads text and printed figures.

The Executive version offers extra features respect to the Standard version. It allows to enter text, printed numbers, bar codes and handwritten numbers

into any Windows and Mac OS application. It has the text-to-speech module that allows natural and clear auditive feedback of the recognized text and offers the multiline reading mode.

### **IRIS Business Card Reader for PC and Mac OS X**

IBCR II is optimized for scanning business cards and converting them into database records using I.R.I.S. powerful OCR technology. The scanner hardly takes up any space on your desk and copes with varying paper and printing qualities. As you insert the business card in the scanner the scanning process starts automatically. Once the business card is recognized, exported and indexed in the database you easily have access to the information thanks to the search, sort and select functions. Contacts can be saved in a structured file and exported to any address database i.e. Mac OS X Address Book or sent directly to contact management softwares i.e. Microsoft Entourage, AppleWorks 6, Now Contact, etc.

### **Readiris Pro 8 for PC & Readiris Pro 7 for Mac OS X**

Readiris Pro is an easy-to-use text recognition software which converts paper documents (captured with scanners, all-in-one devices or digital cameras), image files and fax files into editable text. It saves the end user from time-consuming manual retyping and allows him to optimize his productivity. The recognized document can be sent directly to the user's favorite application or can be saved into a variety of file formats. The original layout of the document will be accurately reproduced, including images and graphics; tables will be automatically recognized and coded as table objects.

The Readiris Pro 8 for PC, the newest I.R.I.S. product, has smashing new features. It converts documents into web pages and recreates the exact original document maintaining the text layout, graphics and photos. PDF documents (even read-only!) can be opened and converted into editable files and directly sent to the user's favorite application.

#### **About Softline Ltd**

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#### **About I.R.I.S.**

Image Recognition Integrated Systems (I.R.I.S.), a Belgian company founded in 1987 and listed on Euronext Brussels (IRI), is a leader on the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) market, the Automatic Document Reading (ADR) and the Electronic Document Management markets.

The I.R.I.S.' activities are organized in two major areas:

### **"Office Products & Technologies"**

I.R.I.S. develops and markets worldwide a complete range of OCR applications for home and office users.

Its well-known products are:

- **IRISPen II:** a pen scanner that allows text and figures capture in any application at the stroke of a hand. The pen scanner is available in the Standard version (reads text and figures) and Executive version (reads text, figures, handprinted numbers, barcodes and includes a text-to-speech module).
- **Readiris Pro:** an OCR package for flatbed scanners, "all-in-one" devices and digital cameras. Readiris Pro recognizes colour documents in up to 93 different languages, sends the recognition results directly to Word or Excel, saves the OCR results in the best known formats including HTML, and supports PDF format. To date, more than 8 million copies have been sold. Readiris Pro has been selected by Hewlett-Packard, Agfa and Compaq, Panasonic, etc.
- **IRIS Business Card Reader and Cardiris:** a complete hardware and software solution to scan, index and recognize business cards. Your contacts are easily exported to your PDA's or contact database with a single click export to Outlook or the export options of Cardiris.

### **"Professional Systems"**

I.R.I.S. also offers solutions for the professional user to de-materialize paper documents, share and distribute the documents over the Intranet/Extranet/Internet and archive and store the electronic documents.

The main solutions are:

- **Automatic Document Reading (ADR) and Intelligent Document Recognition (IDR):** document capture of forms (ADR) and non-structured documents (IDR) in paper or electronic formats.
- **Electronic Document Management (EDM):** organizing, indexing, querying and sharing of electronic documents.
- **Knowledge Management:** high-level consulting services to organize, preserve and optimally use the collective knowledge present in a company.
- **The implementation of Enterprise Information Portals:** development and implementation of integrated portals based on I.R.I.S. DocShare for professional associations and large-scale companies.
- **Archiving and Data storage:** design, architecture and installation of storage, archiving and electronic data security solutions.

In 2001, I.R.I.S. Group had a sales of € 35.340.034. I.R.I.S. has more than 240 employees based in Louvain-la-Neuve and Brussels (Belgium), Massy and Rueil-Malmaison (France), Luxembourg, Boca Raton and Atlanta (USA).

For more information on our company, our solutions or our products, visit the I.R.I.S. website at <http://www.irislink.com>.

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Journalists can register on the I.R.I.S. Extranet web site by clicking on the link <http://www.irislink.com/partners/press/index.html>. They will receive a personal login and password to access the Extranet web site where more corporate and product information is available.