

For immediate release
Geneva, June 29, 2006

Cotecna Signs Grant Contract with the European Commission Goal is to Improve European Security

Cotecna has been granted funding by the European Commission under the Preparatory Action for Security Research Programme (PASR). Cotecna is part of a consortium that will devise a data and interface standard for electronic security technology for containerised cargo entering and leaving the European Union, helping to protect the EU from terrorism and smuggling.

In 2004, more than 1 trillion euros (USD 1.28 trillion) of goods entered the 25 states of the EU, while more than 966 billion euros (USD 1.2 trillion) were exported. This implies container movements in the tens of millions.

The consortium, of which Cotecna is a member, includes Thales Research and Technology, Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (UK), Selex Communications, Cotecna Inspection Ltd (London), and the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN). It will identify the problems with securely tracking and monitoring containers and propose a solution for a standard to be applied across the EU.

Ultimately the consortium intends to standardize the specifications of a device in such a way that it:

- * employs radio frequencies which can be used worldwide
- * can be read rapidly and at a range consistent with port operations
- * has authentication and data protection features
- * has optional data fields to support new sensors
- * can be implemented in a device with low cost, small size and low power consumption

Cotecna will use its worldwide experience in the area of supply chain security and inspection to lead the efforts of the consortium in the human intervention aspects, data requirements and operational scenarios involved in implementing and operating a solution that will be addressed within the context of SECCONDD – Secure Container Data Device Standardization*.

Robert Massey, CEO Cotecna said, " This is a world leading consortium with real skills and knowledge across every aspect of the industry. A successful outcome to this project and its implementation will strengthen the borders of the EU and make it harder for terrorists and organized crime to use the free flow of goods as a means to criminal activities."

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*** Note to editors:**

SECCONND (Secure Container Data Device Standardization) is a Supporting Activity within European Commission Preparatory Action for Security Research (PASR) 2005 whose objective is to initiate the international standardization of the technical interface between a secure container or vehicle and a data reader at a port or border crossing. The purpose of the interface is to enable trade and security data, including stored information from internal security and location sensors, to be read by law enforcement and trade officials. The primary purpose of the interface is to enable law enforcement officials to determine where the container or vehicle has been, whether items (e.g. WMD) or people may have been inserted en route, and whether there may be hazardous items within it. Secondary purposes are to interface to a cargo tracking system and to provide data for automated cargo handling systems.

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