



Press Release

**EastNets signs Distributor Agreement with CounterpartyLink to carry counterparty and entity data**

*Reference Data included on EastNets' web portal application for financial community*

February 2008

EastNets has announced that it has signed a Distributor Agreement with CounterpartyLink (CPL), a provider of global client, counterparty and issuer legal entity reference data, whereby EastNets will now make CPL's legal entity reference data available via its portal or direct distribution to its clients.

EastNets enables its customers to handle confidential transactions in an efficient and effective way. It is engaged in the provision of payment and security solutions primarily for the financial, corporate and government sectors in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

CPL collects and verifies the detailed information on legal entities including corporations, governments and funds, from centres around the world, using primary sources and registration documents, consistent with the stringent standards and practices required by current risk management and regulatory compliance legislation. This information is made available on a subscription basis to its clients.

“Organisations are now under increasing pressure to conform to regulatory standards, which require them to properly categorize and assess the risk from clients and financial counterparties. The legal entity and reference data provided by CPL provides clients with a comprehensive understanding of their counterparties and customers. We are delighted to strengthen our partnership with CPL and provide our advanced solutions that boost our regional presence and enhance regional information security,” said Hazem Mulhim, Chief Executive Officer, EastNets.

EastNets has been supporting the entry of counterparty data to CPL databases since 2005, and hosts CPL databases and systems on its Dubai-based Service Bureau.

EastNets co-provides the CPL reference data services either by portal or by direct distribution, and will capitalize on this partnership to launch a web-based portal application for the financial community that will include CPL reference data.

Christoph Lammersdorf, CEO, Counterparty Link, added: “We are delighted to work with EastNets as a distributor with a particular focus and significant financial services client base in the Near and Middle East and elsewhere. We look forward to supporting them in their exciting plans to roll out new information products and distribution technologies in these regions. We seek partners that can assure us of the highest levels of service, reliability and integrity - which we found in EastNets. EastNets will help us attain our mission of providing complete and accurate reference data to the global securities industry.”

CPL currently provides 94 fields of validated data for legal entities, including name and address, corporate hierarchy, registration and regulator details, and other standard identifiers such as SWIFT Bank Identifier Codes and CPL’s proprietary identifier.

Headquartered in Dubai, EastNets has been providing technology and payment solutions to financial and government sectors throughout the Middle East for more than 24 years. The company capitalises on its alliance with some of the world’s leading ICT companies to help high-profile companies cut costs and improve business performance.

EastNets offers an impressive product line which includes subsidiary SIDE International’s renowned SafeWatch Anti-Money Laundering (AML) software, which is considered one of the world’s best real-time transactions filtering software. EastNets currently markets its payment and security products globally via its offices, and also offers extensive outsourcing services through its EastNets Service Bureau.

“Our partnership with CPL forms part of aggressive efforts to expand our business portfolio, highlighted recently by our acquisition of SIDE International. We are confident that the country’s government, financial and banking institutions will be highly interested in how our products and services, particularly the secure financial

messaging network operated by SWIFT, can radically improve the level of security of their transactions,” concluded Mulhim.

#### About EastNets

Founded in 1984, EastNets is a leading Payments and Security Solution Provider for the government and financial service industry. As a recognized market leader, the company is strategically positioned with offices across the broader Middle East region providing products and services either directly to our customers, or on a hosted basis through the EastNets Service Bureau (ENSB). EastNets covers 20 major markets with offices and presence in the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt, Iraq and Bahrain. In 2004 IFIC Kuwait acquired 25% of Eastern Networks BVI. Today IFIC holds board positions along with CEO Hazem Mulhim. As a strategic partner IFIC provides ongoing support to the EastNets executive team.

#### About CounterpartyLink, Ltd.

CounterpartyLink, Ltd. provides global legal entity and counterparty data, collected and maintained with processes designed to be consistent with the stringent standards driven by today's risk management and regulatory compliance requirements. CounterpartyLink provides detailed information on legal entities, collected in data centers around the world, using primary sources and registration documents. All data is collected and verified using rigorous quality assurance procedures and continually updated for corporate actions and other events affecting the data.

- ends -

For Information:

EastNets  
Erol Kaya  
Tel: +971 4 391 2888  
Dir: +971 4 391 2896  
Email: [ekaya@eastnets.com](mailto:ekaya@eastnets.com)

CounterpartyLink Ltd.  
James Redfern  
Tel: +44 20 7645 8263  
Email: [james.redfern@counterpartylink.com](mailto:james.redfern@counterpartylink.com)