

Real Software consolidates its position in the banking sector

*- Real Software develops virtual banking application and
Internet version of portfolio management system -*

- Holding in Cresus Group raised from 50% to 75% -

Kontich, 19th May 2000. Today Real Software announces 3 important business developments that strongly consolidate its position in the banking software sector.

The Real Software Group launches the newest version of the R.eBank-package in which the entire back-office processing is automated, which is necessary to support a virtual bank. Credit Suisse choose this solution, as well as Var-Edocs, Real Software's e-Commerce report component.

In addition, the new intranet version of Real Portfolio is now available – a joint development with KBC Bank – so the Group now disposes of a unique offer for Internet banking.

Real Software raises its holding in Cresus from 50% to 75%, particularly because the outlook for the coming years is extremely interesting.

Real Software supplies Credit Suisse a 'virtual banking' solution with the newest version of R.eBank

The latest version of the R.eBank package contains the entire back-office processing required to support a virtual bank. The back-office of a bank organises the entire, correct processing of transactions in the domain of stock purchasing (shares, obligations, funds, etc), money transfers, foreign currencies purchasing, etc. In a virtual bank it's important that this processing is fully automatic, without any human intervention, so the large volumes associated with working through the Internet, can be processed without any problem. R.eBank now also disposes of the required functions to pass on stock orders to electronic stock markets, and to automatically process the handling of the executed orders ('settlement and delivery') by means of Swift messages.

Credit Suisse choose Real Software as one of its strategic partners for the creation of its new 'Personal Financial Services Europe' platform, which was announced in the Luxemburg press last week. Since September 1999 already, Real Software collaborates on this ambitious project, which will be operational later this year, after an incredibly short development period of about a year.

Beside R.eBank, and in the scope of the same project, Credit Suisse also selected Var-Edocs, the report component that can be integrated in all e-Commerce solutions of Real Software. Var-Edocs organises the communication with the Internet customers through different channels: e-mail, Internet, WAP, ... as well as the output on paper – taking into account the individual customer requirements. In a bank environment it is an ideal tool to send bank sheets, portfolio overviews, order confirmations a.o. in different ways to the customers. Once again, the high degree of automation assures the fluent processing of large volumes of documents and reports.

New intranet version Real Portfolio – in collaboration with KBC Bank

The Cresus division of the Real Software Group has developed the first version of an Internet-based portfolio management system.

The development started in September 1999, in collaboration with KBC, and was a good example of the synergies within the Real Software Group.

At that time the Cresus team didn't have the required technological knowledge – the used technology was the new Oracle 8i-technology -; still the company succeeded to compose a team of 25 persons, and to finish a development of 2800 working days in only 7 months. This successful development could only be realised thanks to the intense collaboration with other members of the Real Software Group. No Limits specialists mastered the new technology and made it accessible for the Cresus development team. Graphic artists of iMotion gave the application an attractive layout. This development is an excellent example of operational synergies within the Real Software Group. "It's a big asset that everyone knows one another, and one can easily turn to a specialist in whom one has confidence", says Markus Geginat, responsible of the Cresus business unit.

The new product is the basis of the front end of the new R.eBank banking application of Real Software. Thanks to the product, banks can give their customers and agencies access to a centralised portfolio management system based on Internet technology. By means of a browser, Internet Explorer or Netscape, a user can consult all assets of a customer in a portfolio management system.

Real Portfolio was developed with Oracle version 8i, with a 3 tier architecture. This technological innovation gives the product a high portability. A customer can create his own Internet site with the same data, and configure his own Internet pages.

Real Software now disposes of a rather complete offer for Internet banking, with a strong accent on investments through the Web.

Real Software currently employs a total of 320 collaborators in the banking sector, which represents a turnover of more than 1.2 billion BEF, or 12% of the total turnover.

Increase of holding in Cresus

Real Software raises its holding in Real Software Lux SA (former Cresus SARL) and Cresus Real Software SA (former Cresus SA) from 50 to 75%.

At the time of the takeover both companies only employed 16 people, today already 50, with an expected turnover of 200 million BEF for 2000. Because the activities are experiencing a strong growth, and the outlook for the years to come is very positive, Real Software wants to consolidate its position in this business unit.

(End press release)

For further information:

REAL SOFTWARE

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Real Software was founded in 1986. In 1999, the company recorded a consolidated turnover of EUR 248.4 m and net profits of EUR 6.3 m. The group currently employs more than 2800 people.

Real Software offers a comprehensive range of software services, ranging from the development and implementation of its own products, as well as customized projects and outsourcing through to consultancy (including implementation and sale) relating to third-party products. The company exports Belgian technology to countries such as The Netherlands, France, Germany, Ireland, Switzerland, the United States and to the Asia-Pacific region. Real Software customers include companies such as Du Pont de Nemours, GIB, Océ, Johnson & Johnson, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Biogen, Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, Renault, the Paris Metro, TF1, EDF – Electricité de France, SNCF, the Dutch PTT, Nedcar, Philips, Shopi, Goodyear, KBC Bank and Fortis Bank.