

IT Security Integrator AGT Highlights Geometric Growth of IT Security Risks in the Gulf

Recognition of enormous consequences of security breaches fuel major increases in protection spending and software development

19 October 2003 – Advanced German Technology, AGT, a leading supplier of premier security products, solutions and services, focusing on the Middle East, announces its latest security solutions for the regional market at Gitex.

Ongoing threats from hackers, viruses, and worms continue to make security a top priority for IT and business professionals alike, according to the IDC the premier global market intelligence and advisory firm in the information technology and telecommunications industries. As such, IDC estimates investment in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) alone to grow by almost 30 percent a year to US\$162 million by 2007. The analysis house expects worldwide spending on security and business continuity to grow twice as fast as IT spending over the next several years, reaching more than US\$116 billion by 2007.

This investment is in reaction to the escalation, not only in the frequency of security attacks but also in the complexity and virulence of these attacks. The overall rate of attack on companies increased by 19 percent in the first half of 2002 to mid-2003. The rapid increase in the prevalence of blended threats, such as the recent Slammer Worm and Blaster Worm, which combine malicious code and vulnerabilities to launch a cyber attack, increased by 20 percent in 2003.

Downtime while recovering from attack, loss of corporate information and risk of liability involved in confidential information being stolen contribute an enormous amount of potentially avoidable cost to the organizational bottom line. In response, AGT is anticipating the mounting needs of the Gulf market by integrating specialised security software from various European firms for local government and commercial organisations. AGT is integrating the IT security solutions for several European specialised solution providers. Among them are:

Stonesoft Corporation, a worldwide software company that develops, markets and sells a broad family of integrated network security solutions. Stonesoft provides enterprise-level network security and high availability clustering solutions for companies deploying business-critical network applications.

F-Secure, a world leading anti-virus solution provider offering security solutions for enterprises and scalable and centrally managed data security for corporations challenged by the ever increasing security threats in today's complex network environments. At Gitex, F-Secure launched the world's first one platform firewall anti-virus and IDS.

SINABOX provides Virtual Private Network (VPN) with maximum security based

on open source. The SINABOX VPN was developed under the German Authority for Data Security for German government departments, and the military. This solution can be configured by AGT to suit the needs of Middle East clients.

ASTEC, a library systems solution provider, has just launched an Arabic language library system. The company has installed secure library systems for the German Parliament and the German Ministry of Defence. They are currently working on a project for the Egyptian Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources.

Mario Grossmann, AGT managing director considers the worldwide IT security threat escalation as both an opportunity and a challenge. «We as security supplier have the responsibility of bringing the best available weapons to the battle against viruses, intrusion and manipulation. The solutions from our European partners that we integrate for the Middle East Market are the cutting edge of security applications. If we can raise the level of maturity in systems protection in this market we will have contributed to the financial, economic and defensive well-being of its people.» With intrusion protection, vulnerability assessment technology and security management tools tipped to be key revenue generators in a new report by market watcher Datamonitor called Enterprise Security Product Markets. AGT are in a prime position to fulfil their clients' needs.

About AGT

AGT is a leading supplier of premier security products, solutions and services. Based on partnerships with cutting edge technology partners AGT transfers state-of-the-art and tomorrow's technology from Germany and Europe to international clients. AGT's security portfolio consists of an extensive range of security products, solutions and services custom-tailored to the clients' needs, requirements and wishes. The portfolio of AGT includes, for instance, cryptography devices, multiple firewall products, PKI infrastructure, trust centres, laser communication systems, smart card solutions, various monitoring systems, surveillance systems, and much more. A selection of AGT partner companies includes: F-secure, Lamon International, GTen, Secunet, Stonesoft, I-dentis, IQ Wireless, Onsoft, TUV Sueddeutschland, and T-Systems plus many more. For further information, news and reseller opportunities, please visit the AGT website at www.agt-technology.com or contact us at:

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