

Successful First Year for 'CusLink'

The first new CSP (Community Service Provider) for more than fifteen years, 'CusLink', has now completed a year of successful operation and established an excellent reputation for consistent and reliable service.

Provided by Fareham based Pentant Limited, the service set out to offer a viable and cost effective alternative to the traditional CSPs. 'CusLink' is now processing some 700,000 Import and Export Customs Entries a year and in excess of a million transactions with the central Customs system, CHIEF.

Commenting on the first year of operation, Managing Director Phil Waldron said, "The focus of our development has always been on provision of a high quality, cost competitive service. For most of our users Customs clearance is a critical aspect of the smooth movement of their freight. By using current server technology and sophisticated development tools we have created a very robust system. The dedicated nature of the 'CusLink' service gives users greater control whilst achieving more than twenty per cent saving in overall clearance costs".

The 'CusLink' service is approved by H.M. Revenue & Customs and provides a range of Import and Export facilities including a comprehensive Inventory Control system.

'e-Customs', the Clearance and Freight Software division of Customs Consultancy Bell Davies Limited are major users of the 'CusLink' service. Along with other freight software houses they have developed an interface to 'CusLink' to meet the requirements of their customers who are blue-chip Importers, Exporters and major international consolidators.

Alun Davies, Chairman of Bell Davies has said that "Reliability, flexibility and round-the-clock service are crucial in meeting the requirements of our many

clients. We provide a full range of Import, Export, NCTS, IPR and Warehousing clearances. For all of our customers reliability and speed are essential. Our major consolidator clients may clear up to thirteen hundred consignments in a twenty minute period and we have to be able to sustain that level of service at any time of the day or night. We have found that the 'CusLink' service more than meets these demands and at the same time has delivered significant cost savings".

Development of 'CusLink' is on-going. A new 'Back-up' service, providing secure browser access to CHIEF is being launched and a free-standing 'Anti-smuggling Net' facility has been developed, enabling H.M. Revenue & Customs to profile manifest information from individual company inventories.

Ends.

Embargo 0900, 10th March 2006

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