

## PRESS RELEASE

### **PONTIS Venture Partners and Truffle Venture fund Infineon spin-off RF-iT Solutions.**

Graz, 25 January 2006

**PONTIS Venture Partners and Truffle Venture invested in RF-iT Solutions, a Spin-off from the leading semiconductor group Infineon. The financing round will serve to advance the international expansion of RF-iT's You-R® OPEN OPERating ENvironment which is the world's leading RFID platform for system integrators.**

PONTIS Venture Partners structured this first financing round, in which RF-iT Solutions received equity financing from PVP I, advised by PONTIS Venture Partners as well as from Paris based, spin-off specialist Truffle Venture. Public leverage from the federal agency Austria Wirtschaftsservice (AWS) complemented the round with a guarantee under the TFP programme and a seed financing grant. In total RF-iT Solutions will receive 4 Mio. Euro in this first financing round.

RF-iT Solutions was founded in July 2005 and will take over all activities related to RFID system solutions from Infineon, including the You-R® OPEN software, which Infineon developed to market readiness, as well as readers and service components. The company will continue to develop its range of services and You-R OPEN. The **You-R OPEN Operating ENvironment** connects a company's existing logistics IT landscape to its new RFID supported logistics system and its entire RFID infrastructure of readers, PCs and links to IT networks. In addition, RF-iT Solutions will continue to operate the RFID Solution Excellence Center in Graz. The center acts as a showcase for different RFID applications, a development laboratory for sector-specific RFID solutions, a verification laboratory to carry out technology research and a customer training center.

*"It is our objective to establish the You-R OPEN RFID operating environment as a de facto standard in the marketplace. This will allow system integrators to offer their customers end-to-end RFID system solutions. Our core technology and consulting competence, built up over many years, in matters relating to radio frequency interface, information technology and RFID-relevant process management in logistics, facilitates the handling of RFID technology,"* explains Dominik Berger, founder and Managing Director of RF-iT Solutions. *"The approach chosen by RF-iT Solutions allows IT and software companies and system integrators without RFID expertise to participate quickly in the booming RFID market, because You-R OPEN enables them to benefit from efficient RFID system integration, easy scalability, and simple maintenance."*

*"Despite very harsh and challenging market conditions in the financing of early-stage companies, we managed the timely closing of the A-round. We are very pleased with this success, which is a significant milestone in the development of RF-iT Solutions."* comments founder and CTO Alex Gauby.

Thomas Moser, Partner at PONTIS: *"Our investment decision was driven by RF-iT Solutions' strong technology base and the profound industry expertise and international network of the founders. We strongly believe in a highly dynamic development in the RFID business in the next years."*

Jean-Francois Fourt, Managing Partner at Truffle Venture: *"We at Truffle greatly believe in RF-iT's expertise on its market, a market which is going to develop rapidly over the next few years. We also think that the management team is well armed to pilot RF-iT in the near future which is crucial to its success."*

*"We are delighted that RF-iT Solutions continues to develop Infineon's former RFID Software and Solutions business, its outstanding product portfolio and innovative business model will accelerate market dynamics significantly."* says Monika

Kircher-Kohl, CFO Infineon Technologies AG Austria *"The successful financing of RF-iT confirms Austria's leading position as environment for technology start-ups"*

**\*\* ENDS \*\***

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**Notes to editors**

**Company**

**RF-iT Solutions GmbH** was established as an Infineon spin-off; its activities cover RFID software and services. It produces the You-R® OPEN OPERating ENvironment which is the world's leading RFID platform for system integrators. "RF-ID Enablement Packages" provide system integrators and software producers with a rapid and expert market entry to RFID. RF-iT Solutions implements reference projects in strategic market segments in order to facilitate the multiplication of solutions through certified You-R OPEN partners in the rapidly developing RFID market. With technical services, such as studies, technology assessments, benchmarking, technology consulting and pre-sales support, RF-iT Solutions functions as the technical backbone for system integrators. The company operates the RFID Solution Excellence Center at its company office in Graz, Austria.

**Investors**

**PONTIS Venture Partners** is an independent venture capital firm, specialised in transactions in early- and expansion-stage technology situations in ICT, Life Science, Clean Tech as well as industrial technologies. The fund (PVP I) is managed by an experienced team with backgrounds in VC investments, M&A and different technology-oriented industries. PONTIS is among the most active VCs in Austria.

**Truffle Venture** is a leading European venture capital firm focusing on technology spin-offs, it invests in IT, Biotech & Energy businesses throughout Europe. The Truffle Team offers a unique blend of successful investment and entrepreneurial experience with technology companies in Europe and Silicon Valley. TV currently manages € 250 million.



### **People**

**Domink Berger, Alex Gauby** and **Matthias Weitlaner** are founding shareholders of RF-iT Solutions.

**Thomas Moser** and **Christoph Breidert** structured the transaction on behalf of PONTIS Venture Partners; **Jean-Francois Fourt** acted on behalf of **Truffle Venture**.

### **Legal Advisors**

Denk & Kaufmann Rechtsanwälte, Vienna; Ernst Denk (contracts and legal due diligence).

Eisenberger & Herzog, Vienna; Alric Ofenheimer (contracts),

Alerion, Avocat au barreau de Paris; Jacques Bouyssou (contracts).