



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Australian health software leaders create major clinical messaging network**

Medical-Objects and ArgusConnect, Australia's main clinical communications networks, today agreed to integrate their secure clinical communications and directory services, a major breakthrough for secure electronic delivery of clinical information in Australia.

"This historic collaboration will significantly improve clinical communication between health professionals," Glenn Stephens, CEO of Medical-Objects, said.

"It is a big step forward in developing a fully interoperable health message system in Australia",

"The bigger the network, the more powerful a tool it is for every user", Mr Stephens said.

To be operational by October 2009, the agreement will enable 20,000 health professionals in every state and territory of Australia to securely exchange clinical information using their Medicare PKI site/location encryption certificates.

"This agreement meets the needs of the customers of both organisations", Ross Davey, CEO of ArgusConnect said.

Dr John Kastrissios, Board Chair, General Practice Queensland, welcomed the agreement.

"The partnership between Medical-Objects and ArgusConnect will greatly streamline the sending and receiving of referrals and reports between health providers",

"Patients will benefit most from this significant decision",

"Medical-Objects and ArgusConnect deserve considerable praise for making this happen," Dr Kastrissios said.

Interoperability is also the key issue, according to Greg Holden, Information Services manager, General Practice SA Inc.

"One of the major inhibitors to use (of eHealth solutions) by GPs in South Australia is most certainly the lack of interoperability",

"We need secure messaging systems that can consistently and reliably talk to each other".

This move by the two major players in clinical messaging in Australia will also form the basis for their progressive adoption of NeHTA specifications and standards as they are developed and negotiated with the health IT industry. "

The connected system will link messaging delivery and directory services of both networks, working together to develop interconnectivity. This work will be based on the NeHTA specifications that currently exist where this can be reasonably done by both parties.

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## **Media Contact:**

### **About Medical-Objects**

Founded in 2002, Medical-Objects is a software company with a vision of a tightly connected integrated health platform. Built on open standards and strong architectural solutions, Medical-Objects provides rich messaging between all sectors of health to over 12,500 health professionals as well as being world leaders in standards based Clinical Decision Support Tools.

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### **About ArgusConnect**

ArgusConnect is an Australian company that develops, deploys and supports the Argus secure clinical messaging system.

Argus was first developed in 2000 for use throughout the Northern Territory and has since been adopted as the preferred option by more than 50% of Divisions of General Practice across the country. As a result of this strong support by General Practice, Argus is now being used by more than 9,500 healthcare providers including specialists, allied health workers, aboriginal and community health centres, pharmacists, hospitals, aged care facilities, radiologists, and pathologists to communicate with GPs and each other.

ArgusConnect is also a founding partner in the Medisecure® Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions initiative which is a groundbreaking venture in electronically transferring prescriptions from doctors to pharmacies.

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