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ODF Alliance Details Global Policy Adoption and Cost Savings of OpenDocument Format

November 9, 2006 -- The OpenDocument Format Alliance (ODF Alliance), a broad cross-section of associations, academic institutions and industry dedicated to solving the problem of improving access and retrieval of electronic government documents, today provided information on its Web site that describes the steps being taken by governments worldwide that are considering or committed to ODF and open standards. The list includes well-known adopters such as Belgium, as well as less well-known adopters like Extremadura, a region in Spain.

The Alliance also posted a summary of a variety of studies that quantify the potential cost savings of adopting office software based on ODF. The studies range from a Danish analysis predicting a \$94 million (US) savings over five years, to a Dutch study anticipating savings of 90 percent in a migration to an ODF-supporting application. The Alliance expects that these case studies and cost analyses will be instrumental for governments taking a closer look at the benefits of the format.

"Numerous governments around the world are discussing and taking steps to embrace ODF. Until now, there has not been a comprehensive, centralized repository of information through which they can learn from one another about the advantages of embracing the format and re-taking control of their own information," said Marino Marcich, Managing Director of the ODF Alliance. "The breadth and diversity of the case studies demonstrate rapid acceptance of ODF as the document format of choice around the world within six months of its adoption as an ISO/IEC international standard."

The cost savings studies summarized and posted by the Alliance also highlight the return on investment that experts expect for the adoption of ODF to provide. "Government officials around the world clearly appreciate the benefits of ODF, but the migration cost has been a key question," said Marcich. "From the early analysis performed by a wide range of

governments, it is very realistic to expect at least a savings of about 60 percent using ODF. And with the growing range of commercial and open source applications supporting ODF, there are more choices than ever for capturing those cost savings."

To view these resources, to access additional ODF resources or to find out more about the ODF Alliance, please visit our web site at <http://www.odfalliance.org>. In just 6 over months, the ODF Alliance has grown to having nearly 350 members in 48 countries.

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