Media Release

ANZ and Identrus achieve Gatekeeper Recognition

ANZ's implementation of the Identrus scheme today officially received Gatekeeper recognition with the Federal Government, enabling its use in the government sector.

Identrus is an identity management scheme, backed by major banks worldwide. It enables businesses to manage their business-to-business e-commerce interactions through a trusted relationship with their financial institution.

ANZ Chief Operations Officer Mr David Boyles said Gatekeeper recognition by Government was an important step in developing a safe and secure business e-commerce environment.

"This is a significant milestone for us," Mr Boyles said at the official launch in Melbourne today involving Senator the Hon. Richard Alston, Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts and Identrus Chairman Mr Andrew McLauchlan.

"It was important for us to achieve Gatekeeper status because communication with Government agencies is a key part of running any business.

"This means that a customer running an import/export business for example, will be able to lodge a BAS return, obtain a Customs Clearance and make payments to Government or other commercial parties over the Internet using their Identrus identity credentials to secure those transactions," Mr Boyles said.

Identrus Chairman Mr Andrew McLauchlan said the milestone was important as it represented the first formal recognition for Identrus in a legislative framework.

"Gatekeeper recognition of ANZ's implementation is another step forward in bringing online services more broadly to business across the country and will fundamentally shift the way we conduct business in the future," Mr McLauchlan said.

"The issue of identity management today is less about the next new technology and more about the processes we use to issue identity credentials to business. To achieve this, we have been working hard to ensure that the policy and authentication management of Identrus is robust so that the system can be trusted and relied upon," he said.

Australia is the first country to recognise Identrus formally for use in the Government sector. ANZ launched Australia's first Identrus platform in March 2003.

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Notes for editor:

About Identrus
Identrus was launched in April 1999 and enables businesses to manage their business-to-business e-commerce interactions through a trusted relationship with their financial institution.

Participation in the Identrus scheme enables corporate trading partners to eliminate the time, cost and complexity of building trust relationships with counterparts around the world. This trust is based on a set of uniform system rules, contracts and business practices for comprehensive trust and risk management.

The Identrus infrastructure is open to financial institutions, their corporate customers and security vendors around the world. More information is available from www.identrus.com.

How does it work?

Identrus uses digital certificates which are an online signature used to identify individuals or companies when making transactions without the risk of repudiation.

Financial institutions that participate in the Identrus system serve as Identrus Certificate Authorities or Registration Authorities. This allows them to establish the identities of their corporate customers and certify them as trusted trading partners on the Internet through issuing them smart cards, associated software and hardware and unique user IDs.

ANZ Involvement

- ANZ joined the scheme in 2000 and received global accreditation in 2002.
- ANZ launched Australia's first Identrus platform in March 2003.