

PRESS RELEASE

GS1 Belgium & Luxembourg to start a local Healthcare user group

Brussels, Belgium, 16th February – GS1 Belgium & Luxembourg starts a local healthcare user group to promote GS1 standards in the Belgian & Luxembourg healthcare sector and to start an automatic identification pilot project by using the 2dimensional coding GS1 DataMatrix.

On 10th February 2009, GS1 Belgium & Luxembourg held a 'kick-off meeting' with the participation of Belgian healthcare key stakeholders. Representatives of pharmaceuticals companies, hospitals, service and logistic providers and pharma.be agreed to create a local GS1 Healthcare User Group (HUG). During the meeting, the GS1 healthcare standards and solutions were presented and the decision was made to launch a pilot project focusing on the use of GS1 DataMatrix in the sector. One possible application is the coding of the unit dose of medicine in hospital environment.

The HUG will elaborate guidelines for the use of GS1 DataMatrix taking into account the requirements of Belgian hospitals and the specificities of the pilot project, whilst complying with the global GS1 standards. The pilot project to be deployed will also closely follow the EFPIA (*European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries & Associations*) project in order to guarantee full interoperability between healthcare stakeholders using the GS1 standards. Finally the pilot project should allow to gain experience and serve as a business case for new applications in the sector.

About GS1 Belgium & Luxembourg

GS1 Belgium & Luxembourg, headquartered in Brussels, member of the global GS1 organization, is the non-for-profit organization dealing with the dissemination of the GS1 standards in Belgium and the GD of Luxembourg. Its mission is: 'to proactively support the implementation of the global GS1 standards and collaboration concepts in order to achieve greater efficiency and/or quality in the value chain in Belgium and the GD of Luxembourg. In this way, the consumer will be served faster, better and at lower cost'. GS1 Belgium & Luxembourg has currently more than 5.000 members, manufacturers and distributors of products and services in the consumer goods sector and beyond.

GS1 Belgium & Luxembourg offers a vast portfolio of products and solutions based on the GS1 standards, including GS1 Barcodes, GS1 eCom, GS1 GDSN, GS1 EPCglobal and ECR. For more information, please visit www.gs1belu.org

About GS1 Healthcare

GS1 Healthcare, a global voluntary user group facilitated by GS1, allows the Healthcare sector to collaborate and improve the supply chain. 56 countries are already using GS1 standards to uniquely identify healthcare products. These standards aim at improving patient safety and reduce cost in the supply chain.

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