

## **PDF/A Competence Center welcomes direct support for PDF/A in Microsoft Office 2007**

(Berlin) Announced for release in the first half of 2009, Service Pack 2 (SP2) for Microsoft Office 2007 will support PDF/A – the ISO standard for long-term archiving in PDF format. This was reported recently by the Redmond software house in its press statement. Users of the Office suite will be able to create PDF/A files directly from the applications. In this way the files will remain readable for years to come, without requiring that obsolete versions of applications remain available. The PDF/A Competence Center – an international association promoting the exchange of information and experience in long-term archiving – sees this decision by Microsoft as confirming that PDF/A will gain even further acceptance.

A survey by the PDF/A Competence Center conducted in the fall of 2007 showed that companies planning the introduction of a uniform format for long-term archiving predominantly chose PDF/A. With the announcement from Microsoft that their Office suite will support PDF/A in the future, it can be assumed that the use of PDF/A will further increase. Microsoft Office users will have the advantage that they can generate PDF/A files for long-term archiving directly from their documents. Thomas Zellmann, chairman of the PDF/A Competence Center remarked: "Current versions of Microsoft Office already support PDF/A, but require the extra installation of an plug-in. At the PDF/A Competence Center we welcome the announcement by Microsoft to provide even better support for the ISO standard PDF/A in the future. This is a clear indication that PDF/A is finding ever wider acceptance."

### **About PDF/A**

PDF/A is the ISO 19005 standard for long-term archiving in PDF format. The standard specifies in detail what content is allowed and what is not. These and other specifications are intended to ensure long-term readability of the documents regardless of the application software and operating system in which they were originally produced. Experts predict that the designation of PDF/A as an ISO standard will promote the popularity of that

format, and advantages such as full text search capabilities will lead to it replacing TIFF in the near future.

### **About the PDF/A Competence Center**

The PDF/A Competence Center was established as an international association in 2006. The objective of the association is to promote the exchange of information and experience regarding long-term archiving in accordance with ISO 19005: PDF/A. The management board is composed of executives from callas software GmbH, Compart Systemhaus GmbH, intarsys consulting GmbH, LuraTech Europe GmbH, PDF Tools AG (CH) and PDFlib GmbH. More than fifty companies in over a dozen countries joined the PDF/A Competence Center within the first year. The executive chairman is Thomas Zellmann, a managing partner of LuraTech. Hans Baerfuss, CEO of PDF Tools AG, Switzerland, is the executive vice-chairman.

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