**Press release**

Turkcell Technology joins the ITEA 2 Board

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**Eindhoven, the Netherlands, 30 May 2011,** The ITEA 2 Board has unanimously welcomed Turkcell Technology, as a new member. This membership will help to strengthen the ITEA 2 programme further and, at the same time, give Turkcell Technology the opportunity to play a significant role in the European industry-driven research & development (R&D) landscape. Turkcell Technology is the R&D branch of Turkcell, which is the leading communications and technology company in Turkey and the third largest GSM operator in Europe in terms of the number of subscribers. ITEA 2 is the leading pan-European co-operative industry-driven R&D programme in Software-Intensive Systems and Services. ITEA 2 is part of the EUREKA Network and is one of its strategic ICT Cluster programmes.

Since 2004, when Turkish small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) took their initial steps in the ITEA Programme, participation by Turkish companies has snowballed. ITEA 2 marked this strong growth by holding its 2009 Project Outline preparation days for ITEA 2 Call 4 in Istanbul on 16 and 17 February 2009. Based on consistent support by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), 32 Turkish companies have become involved in ITEA / ITEA 2 projects and the total Turkish participation in terms of effort has steadily ranked in the top ten of involved countries.

Rudolf Haggenmüller, Chairman of the ITEA 2 Board stated: “We are delighted to welcome Turkcell Technology to the ITEA 2 Board. Turkey and Turkcell Technology have been strong participants in ITEA for many years now. Turkcell Technology has been involved in ITEA 2 since our third Call (2008) and has been one of the largest Turkish partners participating in seven projects. Turkcell Technology, as one of the leading Turkish R&D and innovation companies, can play an important role in further strengthening ITEA 2’s position and its focus on innovation, business impact and fast exploitation.”

Turkcell Technology Chief Executive Officer Semih Incedayı commented: “We believe that being unanimously elected to ITEA 2’s Board of Directors, thanks to Turkcell Technology’s track record of success and efficient participation in previous projects, and its technology knowhow, is invaluable for both our company and the country. It is essential for Turkcell Technology to play a decision-making role together with Europe’s leading companies in the R&D arena. Turkcell Technology considers ITEA 2 Board membership to be a significant role undertaken on behalf of Turkey itself. This membership provides us with a fresh channel for new experiences enabling us to expand our country’s frontiers, while enabling us to carry out Turkey’s strategic priorities at this focused platform. We will thoroughly support the promising projects of Turkish companies.”

Turkcell Technology is among Turkey’s leading R&D and innovation companies. It was set up in 2007 to develop competitive ICT services and products. In about four years the company has grown to 400+ engineers and it produces many telecommunications software patent applications. Turkcell Technology has been developing services and products in the fields of network services and providers, SIM cards and terminal solutions, mobile Internet, mobile marketing, multimedia applications, business-intelligence solutions and business-support systems.

*Editorial notes*

**About ITEA 2**

ITEA 2 (Information Technology for European Advancement) stimulates and supports innovative and pre-competitive R&D projects that will contribute research excellence to Europe’s competitive Software-Intensive Systems and Services (SiSS) sector. SiSS are a vital growth engine for Europe’s economy and a key driver of innovation in Europe’s most competitive industries – such as automotive, aerospace, communications, healthcare and consumer electronics. ITEA 2 and its predecessor ITEA have a proven track record with major achievements and results in these industries.

As a EUREKA Cluster programme, our approach is intergovernmental, bottom-up, market-oriented and industry-driven. Following the EUREKA structure, each ITEA 2 project partner can apply for national funding in their own country – allowing a project idea to attract funding from all participating countries. ITEA 2 is open to partners from large industrial companies and SMEs, as well as research institutes and universities.

ITEA 2 Board members are: Airbus, Alcatel-Lucent, Barco, Bosch, Bull, Daimler, Italtel, Nokia, Philips, Siemens, Technicolor, Telefonica, Telvent, Thales and, now, Turkcell Technology.

The current set of more than 150 projects (ITEA + ITEA 2), with more than 1000 partners from 30 countries, has established a solid basis for further development. Many of these projects have led to the creation of completely new products.

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