



For immediate release

## **Government takes lead in use of digital signatures with publication of UK Online Annual Report 2001**

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**Adobe PDF of annual report digitally signed by e-Envoy and e-Minister using Adobe Acrobat 5.0 Software**

London, UK, December 4, 2001 (Nasdaq: ADBE): The e-Envoy, Andrew Pinder, and e-Minister Patricia Hewitt, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, have appended their digital signatures to the Adobe PDF (Portable Document Format) version of the UK Online Annual Report 2001. Published today by The Office of the e-Envoy, the Report details progress and policy recommendations for the Government's programme to bring the benefits of the Internet to British citizens and businesses.

"Digital signatures are fundamental to the development of trust in e-commerce and e-government" said Andrew Pinder, "It was therefore appropriate that we should lead by example, to sign off the PDF version of the UK Online Annual Report 2001. There's no better way of demonstrating our commitment to digital signatures than using them to sign our report. It's tamper-proof so everyone can be assured of its integrity." Pinder added.

By using digital signatures with Adobe® Acrobat® 5.0 and Adobe PDF, the conventional time-consuming process of sending paper documents by secure courier for review and physical signature is avoided. The UK Online 2001 report was sent by email to Andrew Pinder who reviewed and then digitally signed it and forwarded it to Patricia Hewitt who did likewise. The digital signature route provided both speed and security and an important step in making all government services available electronically by 2005.

Mark Floisand, managing director, Adobe Systems UK & Ireland, said: "With Acrobat 5.0 Adobe has developed the most reliable and complete range of ePaper solutions for government, corporate and individual use, including those with disabilities. We have been working closely for some time with the Office of the e-Envoy and are delighted to see Acrobat's digital signature and other capabilities being put to good use in demonstrating the Government's commitment to putting the UK in the forefront of the knowledge economy."

Adobe Acrobat 5.0 supports 'plug-in' software modules to allow digital signatures using third-party technology to be added to Adobe PDF documents. The Government uses services provided by approved Trusted Service Providers (TSPs) on the independent industry-led tScheme list, in this instance Royal Mail's ViaCode digital certification operation. ViaCode's service is based on Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) encryption technology from global company Entrust.

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Its digital certificates prove that both the sender and recipient of an electronic document are who they claim to be, and that the document was unaltered from the time at which it was signed, ensuring its integrity.

In addition to the digital signature capability, the UK Online Annual Report 2001 makes extensive use of Adobe PDF navigation features such as bookmarks (intra-document hyperlinks that act like a contents listing, enabling viewers to jump immediately to any bookmarked section of the publication) and Web links (similar to hyperlinks in a Web page, these take the viewer from the Adobe PDF to a particular Web page).

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**Notes to editors:**

### **Digital signatures**

A digital signature encodes an electronic document with a unique encrypted signature that positively identifies the person who applied the signature. Digital signatures are essential in any application that requires reliable authentication of electronic documents.

Two basic models for digital signatures exist today: key-based signatures and biometric signatures. Key-based signatures attach a unique encrypted signature to a document that verifies who signed the document, when it was signed, and other user-determined information. Because key-based signatures are often officially registered with a certification authority, they provide both identification and non-repudiation, important when signing legal documents. Biometric signatures also employ an encrypted algorithm but additionally incorporate a digital representation of the handwritten autograph with associated data relating to how it was written.

Regardless of whether a digital signature is key-based or biometric, it confirms the identity of a person who has read or altered a document. Both kinds of signatures can also be used in conjunction with other enterprise security technologies to provide authentication and privacy protection in large networks or over the Internet. Adobe Acrobat 5.0 includes a SelfSign digital signature capability, and supports various third-party applications including both key-based and biometric solutions.

Information on how to digitally sign an Adobe PDF document can be found at <http://www.adobe.co.uk/epaper/tips/acr5digsig/main.html>

Information on digital signature and security solutions provided by Adobe Acrobat 5.0 partners can be found at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/partnerssecurity.html> and Adobe's eGovernment solutions at <http://www.adobe.co.uk/products/acrobat/solutionsgov.html>

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### **Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)**

A Public Key Infrastructure is a combination of hardware and software products, policies and procedures. It provides the basic security required to carry out electronic business so that users, who do not know each other or are widely distributed, can communicate securely through a chain of trust. PKI is based on digital IDs known as digital certificates which act like electronic passports and bind the user's digital signature to his or her public key.

Public key cryptography (or asymmetric cryptography) provides security by using a pair of keys, one private and one public, mathematically linked to each other. Information is encrypted with the public key, which can only be decrypted with the corresponding private key from that key pair, providing proof of confidentiality. The public keys of all users can be published, facilitating communications between all parties. The private key is not shared. Public key cryptography can be used to create and verify digital signatures which can be appended to messages to provide proof of authentication, integrity and non-repudiation

### **About Adobe**

Founded in 1982, Adobe Systems Incorporated ([www.adobe.co.uk](http://www.adobe.co.uk)) builds award-winning software solutions for network publishing, including Web, ePaper, print, video, wireless and broadband applications. Its graphic design, imaging, dynamic media and authoring tools enable customers to create, manage and deliver visually-rich, reliable content. Headquartered in San Jose, California, Adobe is the second-largest PC software company in the US, with annual revenues exceeding \$1.2 billion.

### **About Adobe Acrobat**

Acrobat 5.0 is an efficient and effective way to move paper processes to the Web. Acrobat allows users to easily convert documents and forms to searchable, accessible Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files, the de facto standard for electronic document distribution.

Anyone with the free Adobe Acrobat Reader® software can open Adobe PDF files across a broad range of hardware and software, and they will look and print exactly like the originals.

There are over 320 million copies of Acrobat Reader distributed worldwide with one million copies downloaded weekly.

Visit the Adobe Web site for further information <http://www.adobe.co.uk/acrobat>

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### **Use of Adobe Acrobat in Government**

Government customers can use Adobe Acrobat and Adobe PDF files in a variety of ways:-

- Post information online to give citizens easy access to documents and forms while saving on printing, mailing, and warehousing costs
- Preserve the look and feel of forms with Adobe PDF and enhance them with digital signatures and XML data
- Simplify the collection of forms and documents from citizens and business entities
- Optimize documents and forms to improve access for users with disabilities such as blindness and low vision
- Control access to sensitive content by password-protecting your documents
- Convert paper documents to Adobe PDF and create archives of that are easily searched
- Work smarter as a team by adding comments to your files right from your Web browsers with electronic highlighting and sticky notes

### **About the Office of the e-Envoy**

The Office of the e-Envoy is leading the drive to get the UK online, to ensure that the country, its citizens and its businesses derive maximum benefit from the knowledge economy. To support this aim, the Office has three core objectives:

- to make the UK the best environment in the world for e-commerce by 2002
- to ensure that everyone who wants it has access to the Internet by 2005
- to make all Government services available electronically by 2005

Copies of the UK online annual report are available on the e-envoy website [www.e-envoy.gov.uk/ukonline/progress/anrep2001/default.htm](http://www.e-envoy.gov.uk/ukonline/progress/anrep2001/default.htm)

High resolution photographs of Andrew Pinder and Patricia Hewitt are available on the e-envoy website [www.e-envoy.gov.uk/images/anrep2001/photos/index.htm](http://www.e-envoy.gov.uk/images/anrep2001/photos/index.htm)

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### **About Royal Mail ViaCode**

Royal Mail ViaCode, a subsidiary of Consignia, is one of Europe's largest providers of managed certificate services with a fast-growing customer base in industry, commerce and the public sector.

A ViaCode personal certificate is issued only after stringent face-to-face authentication of the applicant. The bearer can use it to prove their identity to other Internet users, and to encrypt and digitally sign information or transactions of any type. Encryption stops anyone but the intended recipient reading the information. Digital signatures are legally recognised alternatives to pen-on-paper signatures, and also verify that the signed information has not been accidentally or fraudulently altered.

ViaCode encryption uses industrial-strength cryptography. A secure encryption key-backup and recovery facility means critical information, previously encrypted, is not lost in the event of a certificate being damaged or mislaid. Separate key pairs for encryption and signing mean ViaCode digital signatures are non-deniable.

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