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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AFNet, ProSTEP iViP, and PDES, Inc. Announce Formal Collaboration
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A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed to establish a multi-national collaboration among three organizations dedicated to using information standards to solve industrial manufacturing issues. The organizations are AFNET (France), ProSTEP iViP (Germany), and PDES, Inc. (USA).

The goal of the MoU is to expand testing capabilities for Information standards beyond the realm of computer aided design. Currently, ProSTEP iViP and PDES, Inc. jointly host a testing forum for the ISO 10303 standard for the exchange of product data information (commonly referred to as STEP). This forum, known as the CAx-IF, currently tests the exchange of STEP product data related to Computer-Aided Design (CAD). As a result of the MoU, the CAx-If will expand its testing to include Computer-Aided Engineering data (CAE).

PDES, Inc. General Manager Jack Harris said, "This partnership among AFNet, ProSTEP iViP, and PDES, Inc. provides an opportunity to leverage the well-established infrastructure of the CAx-IF and have a positive impact on the quality of CAE for the digital enterprise."

"This is a big step forward in assuring interoperability in a global context and safeguards the success of the CAx-IF in the long run" stated Steven Vettermann, General Manager of ProSTEP iViP.

"We think this partnership will improve the quality and implementation of the CAE aspects of ISO 10303" cited Jean Brangé, PLM TaskForce Leader at AFNeT. "We look forward to working with PDES, Inc. and ProSTEPiViP to help advance the model-based engineering and manufacturing standards."

The MoU outlined the objectives of the collaboration:

1. Extend the focus of the CAx-IF beyond testing CAD data exchanges to CAE date exchanges
2. Develop common pilot projects that would be of interest to all three organizations
3. Ensure harmonization among the standards of interest to the three organizations

PDES, Inc. is a member-based consortium focused on the development and implementation of model-based standards to support the digital enterprise. These standards include International Standards for 3D model-based product data throughout the product life cycle, from design and manufacture to archiving and retrieval. Founded in 1988, the organization includes members from Industry, Government and Academia. More information can be found at http://pdesinc.org/.

AFNet is a non-profit multi-sectoral association comprised of a Think Tank articulated with a Do Tank with digital transformation projects or standardization projects in several industries. These activities have led to the emergence of a network of recognized highly skilled participants from manufacturing, IT, business

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and research companies. Its members represent leading industrial companies, small-to-medium enterprises, French governmental agencies, software vendors, universities and research organizations.

AFNeT supports development, testing, and use of a set of coherent international standards supporting activities in the Product Lifecycle Management and Supply Chain Management domains.

ProSTEP iViP is an international sectoral community comprising leading companies in the automotive and aerospace industries, systems vendors and research institutes. The aim of ProSTEP iViP is to find solutions to challenges stemming from worldwide development collaboration used by manufacturing industries. Headquartered in Darmstadt, Germany, ProSTEP iViP has almost 200 member companies and organizations from 20 nations.

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