Kirusa and VoiceObjects Partner to Enable End-To-End Authoring and Delivery of Multimodal Applications

Partnership makes it easy for application developers to create and deploy mobile multimodal applications in different languages and countries.

Edison, NJ, and Köln, Germany; July 08, 2003 – Kirusa, the leading provider of multimodal platforms enabling wireless applications delivery, and VoiceObjects, vendor of one of the world's first Voice Application Management Systems (VAMS) for the fast and easy creation of speech-driven services, today announced that they are teaming to extend and integrate the VoiceObjects Factory with the Kirusa Multimodal Platform, creating a complete solution to author, test, and deploy mobile multimodal applications. Kirusa and VoiceObjects will jointly market and sell the integrated solution.

Kirusa's multimodal platform, offering SMS, sequential, and simultaneous multimodality, enables wireless phone and PDA users to request or add information by speaking a command, or by using visual inputs such as typing or tapping with a stylus. Application results can be delivered visually on the device screen, by voice, or through innovative combinations of both voice and visual modes. In addition to support for VoiceXML-based multimodal solutions, Kirusa's platform supports the Speech Application Language Tags (SALT) specification for speech and multimodal application development, allowing speech capabilities to be easily added to mobile Web applications for improved usability and reduced task completion time. Using SALT and Kirusa's simultaneous multimodal support, applications allowing users to use both voice and visual interactions at the same time can easily be developed and deployed for numerous advanced handsets, including those based on platforms such as Microsoft's SmartPhone™, Symbian™ (e.g. Nokia's Series 60 and Symbian OS Version 7), Qualcomm's BREW™, PalmOS, and Microsoft's PocketPC.

The concept of the Voice Application Management System (VAMS) *VoiceObjects Factory* is based on the dynamic generation of speech dialogs from objects – the so-called *VoiceObjects*. Based on the Lego principle, *VoiceObjects* can be put together in the form of modules with the aid of the built-in tools to form interactive dialogs of any desired degree of complexity, all without any complicated programming. This vendor-independent software supports current standards such as VoiceXML or SALT. *VoiceObjects Factory* consists of *VoiceObjects Server* to run the dialogs and *VoiceObjects Desktop* for use in design and development. The software is available for the Apache Tomcat, BEA WebLogic, Caucho Resin and JBoss Web application servers and IBM WebSphere Application Server, as well as for platforms like BeVocal, Genesys, Intervoice, Nortel, Pipebeach, Tellme, T-Systems and VoiceGenie

As a result of this partnership, VoiceObjects Factory will add support for visual interactions (such as interactive SMS and WAP) to speech applications. A developer can use the familiar VoiceObjects Factory interface to easily create multimodal applications, which are delivered to a mobile user using the Kirusa Multimodal Platform.

"Support for multimodality by leading authoring tools like the VoiceObjects Factory is accelerating the widespread adoption of multimodality. VoiceObjects Factory makes it easy and economical to realize multimodal applications that can be delivered in multiple languages, with the customer's choice of speech technology vendors," said Ewald Anderl, Chief Technology Officer and Vice President of Kirusa. "We are thrilled to be working with VoiceObjects to bring multimodal development to our customers."

"Adding new delivery channels to voice systems is key to building useful systems for consumers. Combining Kirusa's multimodal delivery capabilities with VoiceObject's easy to use development tools will mean that high-quality multi-modal systems can be delivered much more quickly" said Christian Dugast, Head of Business Development at VoiceObjects. "We are delighted to be partnering with the industry leader in multimodality to boost the penetration of multimodal voice services in the market."

About Kirusa

Kirusa, Inc. is a multimodal infrastructure company that has developed industry leading multimodal technology (with several patents pending) for the delivery of data applications using multimodal interfaces. This next generation of wireless technology allows users to customize the presentation of information on wireless devices by either alternating, or simultaneously receiving data through visual and voice interfaces. Kirusa's customers include the worlds' leading telecom carriers, such as France Telecom, Bouygues Telecom, and Mobilkom Austria. Kirusa is headquartered in Edison, New Jersey and was founded by telecom and Internet industry veterans from AT&T, Lucent and Vodafone Airtouch. For more information about Kirusa please call its headquarters at +1 (732) 623-2118 or visit www.kirusa.com.

About Voice Objects

VoiceObjects AG develops and markets VoiceObjects Factory™, one of the world's first Voice Application Management Systems for the fast and easy creation of voice-controlled services. Following the Lego principle, so-called VoiceObjects can be linked together for inter-active dialogues of any complexity. VoiceObjects Factory™ is an open platform based on standards such as VoiceXML and SALT, completely encapsulating complex speech processing systems and other core technologies. This enabling technology allows users and designers to easily manage voice-controlled services. For further information, please visit www.voiceobjects.com

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