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THELMA Achieves Certification for US Health Market

ICSGlobal Limited has achieved a prized milestone in the US healthcare market by receiving HIPAA Certification for electronic claims. The Certification stemmed from a Proof of Concept ICSGlobal is conducting with a US-based healthcare firm that is proceeding ahead of schedule.

THELMA's HIPAA Compliance Certificate



THELMA's claims transactions were certified by EDIFECs, a leading independent provider of compliance testing and certification for HIPAA (see www.hipaadesk.com).

HIPAA is the acronym for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), a Federal agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is responsible for administering HIPAA, which was designed to, among other things:

- protect health insurance coverage for workers and their families when they change or lose their jobs.
- establish national standards for electronic health care transactions and national identifiers for providers, health plans, and employers.
- address the security and privacy of health data.

Achieving HIPAA Certification means THELMA is now positioned to "go-to-market" throughout the US with electronic claims. While THELMA will have to be certified for the other HIPAA transactions commonly used by healthcare providers - including remittances, eligibility queries, claim status queries, and referrals – the certification process for claims was a straight forward implementation process and demonstrated the ease, power and flexibility of THELMA's "any-to-any" exchange technology to adapt to specific regulations and technical requirements governing the transmission of medical transactions in the US marketplace.

A factor which is expected to drive the take up of THELMA in US healthcare market is the fact that "HIPAA Compliance" is mandatory for healthcare participants, and in many cases presents significant business and technical challenges. On top of this, CMS has the discretion to impose penalties for non-compliance. THELMA's "any-to-any" exchange technology is now ready and available to greatly simplify HIPAA compliance for US healthcare participants as part of a risk management and corporate integrity solution.

Commenting on the milestone, Tim Murray, Managing Director of ICSGlobal, said that HIPAA Certification really clears the decks for THELMA to get involved in reducing the estimated \$200 billion of US healthcare administration costs.

"Our marketing efforts to date in the US have been stymied by the first question which invariably came up at each meeting: "Is THELMA HIPAA compliant?" We knew it was, whereas now we have recognised, objective evidence that it is, and so it's full steam ahead from here," said Mr Murray.

Released by: ICSGlobal Limited. For further information or media inquiries:

Tim Murray
Managing Director
ICSGlobal Limited
Ph: (02) 9247 2111

About ICSGlobal and THELMA

Founded in 1990 as an engineering and IT consultancy, ICS Group listed on the Australian Stock Exchange as ICSGlobal Limited in 1999 [ASX:**ICS**]. Since 2000, ICSGlobal's core business has been the unique "any-to-any" health industry clearing house technology **THELMA** (**T**ransactional **H**ealth **E**xchange **L**inking **M**ultiple **A**pplications), which ICSGlobal built, owns and operates. THELMA creates interoperability between the broad range of new and legacy software systems that typically exist in health systems. This enables health industry business partners in any country to conduct financial, clinical and administrative transactions electronically over the Internet. In Australia, THELMA's customer base continues to grow steadily, now standing at 60% of private health insurers, 35% of private hospitals, 25% of public hospitals on the east coast, plus is connected into the national Medicare system for member checks and electronic claims. THELMA went live in the UK in July 2005. A Proof of Concept is underway in the USA. For more information visit www.icsglobal.net and www.thelma.com.au.