



## **AVANQUEST PARTNERS WITH SUN TO MAKE NEW STAROFFICE SOFTWARE WIDELY AVAILABLE TO RETAIL CUSTOMERS IN EUROPE**

### **Agreement with Sun completely aligned with Avanquest Strategy to Publish World-Class Software**

---

PARIS – October 10, 2005 – Avanquest Software (EURONEXT: AVQ), today announced their agreement with Sun Microsystems to make StarOffice™ 8 software, the latest version of the award-winning desktop productivity suite, available in ten countries in Europe.

As part of the agreement, Avanquest will make StarOffice 8 software available to consumers throughout Europe, downloadable versions of StarOffice 8 software will be shortly available through Avanquest Online stores in France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the UK. Online shoppers in Italy, Spain and Portugal will be able to download the software from Avanquest Online by end-October, with the retail boxed version of StarOffice 8 also available through more than 5,000 retail outlets Europe-wide by the end of the month.

StarOffice 8 software is an easy-to-use office productivity suite with powerful word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, drawing and database capabilities. Based on open source technology, OpenOffice.org, StarOffice 8 software runs on Windows, Linux and the Solaris Operating System. The suite is comprised of five key components: StarOffice Writer, Impress, Calc, Base and Draw.

StarOffice 8 software, an affordable alternative to other leading office suites, is the first commercial office suite using the Open Document Format for Office Applications, the OASIS open standard that allows users to own their own data and not be locked into a particular vendor's office suite in order to access the data.. The Open Document format provides improved interoperability and enhanced programmability and is increasingly endorsed by the European Union, as well as the U.S. state of Massachusetts.

"StarOffice software has always been popular in Europe and we expect the new features of StarOffice 8, such as its compliance with the OpenDocument format to drive more demand," said Neal Civjan, Vice President, Worldwide OEM Software Sales," Sun Microsystems. "We're excited to combine our product technology with Avanquest's expertise in software publishing."

"Partnering with Sun is fully in keeping with Avanquest's strategy to offer world-class software on a multi-channel level throughout Europe and all Avanquest markets worldwide," said Bruno Vanryb, President & CEO of Avanquest Software.

"Sun's StarOffice software is a product with broad European appeal," added Andy Goldstein, Executive Director of Avanquest. "The excellent new features in Star Office 8, together with Avanquest's tremendous coverage of the European market will allow both firms to widely expand the product's market share."

StarOffice software provides excellent compatibility with Microsoft Office. StarOffice 8 software further improves import and export of Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents, even password-protected MS Word and MS Excel files and presentations with complex animations, autoshapes and slide transitions. StarOffice 8 software also provides features that look more familiar to Microsoft Office users. The Format Paintbrush allows simple transfer of styles from one section of a document to another, and the Impress multi-pane user interface simplifies creation of high-impact presentations.

StarOffice builds on the OpenOffice.org code base by adding a host of features like a commercial spellchecker, additional clipart, sample files, templates, additional metrically-equivalent fonts, and the Adabas D database engine on top of OpenOffice.org.. In addition, StarOffice offers 60-day free support from time of purchase for up to three incidents.

### About Avanquest Software

Avanquest Software is a global developer and leading publisher of best-selling personal and professional software designed for utilities, office productivity, communications and mobility worldwide. Headquartered in France, with operating units, subsidiaries and offices located in United States, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, China and Korea, Avanquest Software products are marketed in over 100 countries, through e-commerce, OEM partnerships and IT resellers. Founded in 1984 as BVRP Software and listed since December 1996 on Euronext (ISIN FR0004026714), Avanquest Software forms part of the Eurolist, NextEconomy segment and SBF 250 index. In 2004, Avanquest Software posted record financial results, with revenue of €57.0M (\$72.0M), operating income of €6.9M (\$8.7M) and a net income of €5.3M (\$6.7M). Additional information on Avanquest Software is available at <http://www.avanquest.com>.

Sun, Sun Microsystems, StarOffice and Solaris are trademarks or registered trademarks of Sun Microsystems, Inc. in the United States and in other countries.

### Your contacts

Thierry Bonnefoi, Chief Financial Officer:  
Analysts/Investors Relations  
Tel.: +33 (0)1 41 27 19 74 – E-mail : [tbonnefoi@avanquest.com](mailto:tbonnefoi@avanquest.com)

Lucie Rivaud, Press Relations  
Tel. : +33 (0)1 41 27 19 96 – E-mail : [lrivaud@avanquest.com](mailto:lrivaud@avanquest.com)

Christine Sauvaget, Communications  
Tel. : +33 (0)1 41 27 19 82 – E-mail :  
[csauvaget@avanquest.com](mailto:csauvaget@avanquest.com)



New ticker: AVQ  
**ISIN** : FR0004026714  
Reuters : **AVQ.PA**  
Bloomberg : **AVQ:FP**