



AVANQUEST BB ANNOUNCES PREMIER SOFTWARE LICENSE DEAL IN JAPAN WITH SOURCENEXT

COMPUTER INDUSTRY VETERAN YOSUKE ITO NAMED TO LEAD JOINT-VENTURE BETWEEN PARIS-BASED AVANQUEST SOFTWARE AND JAPAN'S SOFTBANK BB

Avanquest BB KK, the Tokyo-based software license distribution joint-venture between Avanquest, a leading developer and publisher of business and consumer software for the global PC market with offices in Europe, the U.S. and Asia, and Softbank BB, Japan's leading broadband infrastructure provider and IT distributor, today announced its first Japanese license agreement for overseas software, with leading Japanese software publisher, SOURCENEXT.

Levallois-Perret, March 21, 2006

"Kyouosoku Hard Disk," an automatic computer hard-disk de-fragmentation program developed by the well known German software company Ashampoo, will be distributed by SOURCENEXT in Japan beginning March 26, with Avanquest BB having coordinated localization of the utility software for the Japanese market. Kyouosoku Hard Disk offers completely non-intrusive, intelligent background de-fragmentation of hard disk, without sacrificing the CPU performance during the de-fragmentation process.

At the same time, Avanquest BB announced the appointment of Japanese computer and software industry veteran Yosuke Ito to the position of Representative Director, Avanquest BB KK. A native of Tokyo, Mr. Ito assumes all business development and marketing responsibilities associated with Avanquest BB's licensing and distribution of overseas software products in the Japanese market, as well as publication and distribution of Japanese software titles outside of Japan.

The announcements of the Kyouosoku Hard Disk software introduction into the Japanese market and Mr. Ito's appointment come just three months after incorporation in Japan of Avanquest BB, a joint venture launched in December 14, 2005 with initial capitalization of JPY 100M. The company is 51% owned by Paris-based global software developer and publisher Avanquest Software, with 49% ownership of capital stock by Softbank BB, which provides IT distribution and related services and serves 4.9 million broadband customers in Japan.

"SOURCENEXT is very pleased to be working with Avanquest BB in its first localization and distribution of overseas software, Kyouosoku Hard Disk, for the Japanese market," said Yukio Aotani, Board of Director, SOURCENEXT. ***"Avanquest BB's ability to attract leading software titles from top developers and publishers will ensure the continued access for Japanese buyers of consumer and enterprise software to the best and latest software offerings from around the globe."***

Designed as a "bridge" between the global software market and Japan's \$7 billion market for software sales – second only to the U.S. market – the joint venture is designed to open access for overseas developers to the Japanese market and enable Japanese local publishers to have timely access to innovative titles from everywhere in the world.

The joint venture also provides Japanese software developers and publishers access to Avanquest's global publishing network and channels of distribution in leading markets in the U.S., Europe and parts of Asia, including relationships with leading retail chains that represent more than 15,000 outlets.

As its first overseas software title introduced into the Japanese market through Japanese software publisher SOURCENEXT, Kyouosoku HD paves the way for additional software publication and

distribution deals in keeping with the Avanquest BB business model of licensing and localizing the global PC market's best software offerings in the Japanese market.

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 2005, Avanquest Software posted record financial results, with revenue of €70.6M (\$85.6M) and operating income of €8.9M (\$10.8M). Additional information on Avanquest Software is available at <http://www.avanquest.com>.

About Avanquest BB KK

Avanquest BB KK is a joint venture between Paris-based Avanquest Software, a leading developer and publisher of business and consumer software for the global PC market with offices in Europe, the U.S. and Asia, and Softbank BB, Japan's leading IT distributor and provider of broadband infrastructure with its 4.9 million broadband customers. Avanquest BB KK is a portal for the licensing of overseas software and functions as an outlet for the Japanese domestic developer in the overseas market. The company handles export of software from Japan through affiliated offices in the U.S., France, the U.K., Germany, Italy and Spain. More information is available at <http://www.avanquestbb.co.jp>

About SOURCENEXT

SOURCENEXT, the No.1 PC Software unit sales share holder in Japan for the last 3 years has proud history of producing a variety of successful software products since its foundation in 1996. It provides over 400 PC software titles from anti-virus, system utilities, document management to edutainment and games. SOURCENEXT has expanded the number of distribution channels over 30,000 stores through bookstores, convenience stores, supermarkets, and so on. As a software republisher, it has made many successful alliances with foreign partners including Sun Microsystems, IBM, and Buena Vista Games. For more information, please contact at pr@sourcenext.com or visit <http://www.sourcenext.com/en>

About Ashampoo

Based in the north of Germany, Ashampoo GmbH & Co. KG - founded in 1999 - is one of the leading Internet-based companies worldwide in the field of software development, sales and web portal sites, with more than 3,2 million registered customers and well over 31 million program installations. Ashampoo's innovative software products set technological standards right from the start and are known for their advanced, mature technology and user-friendliness. More information can be found online at: www.ashampoo.com.

Your contacts

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

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

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



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