MINERVA PRESS RELEASE



CONTACT: Alena Pribisova, Marketing Manager, Minerva Česká republika, a.s.

Tel. +420 543 251 119, GSM: +420 602 154 93

E-mail: marketing@minerva-is.cz, www.minerva-is.eu

QAD becomes first software provider to be granted membership in ODETTE

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QAD's Role in Global Automotive Industry Prompts Trade Association's Unprecedented Invitation. QAD, a leading provider of enterprise applications for global manufacturers, has become the first software company to join European automotive industry organization Odette. QAD brings to Odette both deep expertise in the global automotive sector and experience providing leadership and resources to help establish supply chain technology standards in the European and North American automotive industries. Its membership in Odette will help advance similar initiatives in Europe to enhance operational aspects of the supply chain for greater efficiency.

Focused on the compilation and implementation of standards in the automotive industry supply chain, Odette was founded in 1984 as a non-profit organization by European automotive manufacturers through their national bodies. The common goal of members is to make manufacturing processes more effective by standardizing work flows, tools and manufacturing products. Today, more than 4,000 European automotive companies benefit from Odette's work to establish protocols and best practices for the design and configuration of specific operational processes in such fields as logistics, engineering and B2B communications.

"The advantages of making QAD the first software vendor member of Odette were clear, from QAD's contributions to automotive industry standards, to its role as a valued partner to automotive manufacturers and suppliers worldwide," said John Canvin, managing director, Odette. "We anticipate QAD will provide the technological insight and industry experience that will help Odette further its work to improve automotive supply chain function. With QAD's help, we also hope to encourage the software industry to develop solutions that support Odette standards."

QAD has a significant presence in the automotive industry worldwide including in Europe, and is actively involved in major industry initiatives to realize advanced manufacturing concepts. These include the joint Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG)/Odette global Collaborative Managed Inventory: Minimum/Maximum business process work group. QAD also serves on the associations' joint global Materials Management Operations Guidelines/Logistics Evaluation (MMOG/LE) Key Performance Indicator work group. In North America, QAD has helped pioneer the AIAG Inventory Visibility & Interoperability standard for inventory information exchange, including development of protocols and contribution of open source code for free download and use by AIAG members. QAD also has incorporated support into its products for standards such as Odette and AIAG's MMOG/LE guideline, making it far easier for suppliers to assess whether they are in compliance.



"QAD is deeply committed to the automotive industry and we're extremely gratified to become the first software company associate member of Odette," said Pamela Lopker, president and chairman of QAD. "We look forward to providing leadership and insight from 25 years' focus on the real-world challenges facing global manufacturers, and we look forward to continued, close work with industry leaders toward standards for solutions that the entire supply chain can embrace."

About Minerva

Minerva is a customer-focused company specializing in helping manufacturing and distribution companies solve their business problems by providing them with greater efficiency, control and productivity through the implementation of information systems. Minerva is able to provide its customers a full range of services from software installation and consultation to system integration and world class e-business solutions. Long-time experience in the Czech, Slovak, Russian, Ukrainian and Lithuanian Enterprise Resource Planning market and over 100 companies in these markets using the QAD Enterprise Applications (formerly MFG/PRO) information system confirm Minerva's commitment to customer satisfaction. More at www.minerva-is.eu

