

GS1net™ heralds new generation of data synchronisation



Australia's EANnet community is entering an exciting new era of data synchronisation with the migration from EANnet® to GS1net.

The new GS1net platform, which is also being used by at least another 15 GS1 organisations around the world, is a new and improved EANnet platform aligned with the Global Data Synchronisation Network (GDSN).

The GDSN allows data pools similar to EANnet around the world to share data for the benefit of suppliers, wholesalers, retailers and other data recipients. The global GS1 Standards have been developed so that item information can be synchronised within the GDSN. Participation in GDSN means manufacturers' products will be listed in a Global Registry and the product details will be synchronised with retailers and other purchasing hubs around the world, opening up access to global markets.

Since 1997, EANnet has become a global leader in data synchronisation and Australian industry has been synchronising data on item and price attributes since EANnet version 2.0 was launched in 2001.

Over the last two years, global standards have been approved for the synchronisation of item information within the GDSN. While waiting for the finalisation of price synchronisation standards, GS1 Australia has been progressively aligning its EANnet data set with the GDSN item standards.

Now, global price synchronisation standards have been approved and GS1 Australia has launched a project to fully adopt the GDSN standards and migrate all EANnet users to GS1net. The migration will start in July 2007 and will be completed by December 2007, when the EANnet platform will be decommissioned.

A series of detailed information sessions for users commenced in September 2006 and will continue on a regular basis until the migration is complete.

John Hearn, GS1 Australia General Manager - Business Development & Professional Services, said the new system meant Australian products would be visible to global retailers and bring a range of additional new features.

"GS1net also offers EANnet members an improved user interface into the system as well as support of XML and other improved data input methods. We will also be able to introduce full closed-loop synchronisation, whereby suppliers receive confirmation notifications back from their trading partners," he said.

Mr Hearn said GS1net would also allow greater flexibility to add new fields to meet emerging or new industry requirements.

For more information about GS1net, contact GS1 Australia on 1300 366 033.