

P R E S S R E L E A S E

PORTECH SYSTEMS TO IMPLEMENT NEW STOCK CONTROL TECHNOLOGY FOR HABITAT

Habitat improves productivity and efficiency of stock taking system

Birmingham, 5 November 2007. Home interiors retailer Habitat has consolidated its stock taking across the UK using new Portable Data Capture Units and bespoke software from [Portech Systems](#). Following successful completion of UK implementation of the new system, it will be rolled out to Spain and potentially other European countries.

The multinational homes and interiors retailer currently runs in-house stock taking in the UK to manage over 3,500 products in approximately 100 different product typologies. To gain greater stock accountability - visibility and control of items in store - Habitat has decided to implement a new stock taking system from [Portech Systems](#), a UK based mobile workforce solutions company.

The implementation includes the use of a fleet of 108 multi-lingual Portable Data Capture Units [Unitech HT660]. These will enable Habitat to benefit from perpetual counts and rolling counts once the initial stock audit has been undertaken. Currently, counts are conducted on a paper check basis and the stock audit process differs from country to country – the new system will help to provide a unified approach to stock auditing. The new units and software will also improve speed and accuracy of counts as they are programmed to recognise and alert the stock auditor to skew very quickly.

With the new system, Habitat will increase productivity of stock audits as time taken for the process will be reduced and counts will occur, where possible, out of trading hours so limiting inconvenience to the store's customers. Habitat will also benefit from a higher level of reporting and visibility as the underlying PC system has also been updated to meet the company's requirements, including the option to view the progress of the stock audit at any given time.

Implementation is already underway with a testing phase running concurrently and will be finished before the critical January stock audits in the UK . A Habitat spokesperson said: “We are confident that we will be able to transform our stock audit process to deliver strong benefits to our business down to the individual store level. The new system is more than a simple stock audit solution – it has huge potential to help us improve traceability of our products and manage our inventory more effectively at any time of the year. Store managers will be able to access real time product inventory during the order process and analyse turn levels far more accurately than the method we use today.”

Shaz Naeem, Managing Director, Portech Systems, added: “We were selected following a competitive review process and are delighted to be working with Habitat once again. The technology that we have developed offers the ability to expand functionality easily and will improve the stock taking and inventory requirements of Habitat immensely today and in the future.”

- END -

About Habitat

Habitat currently operates 72 stores: 38 stores in the UK, 24 in France, 6 in Spain and 4 in Germany. In addition the company operates stores in partnership with wholesale/franchise operations in: Belgium (two stores), Eire (two stores), Iceland, Luxembourg, Northern Ireland, Thailand, Portugal (four stores) and Sweden (ROOM).

About Portech Systems Ltd

Portech Systems Ltd is at the forefront of mobile computer solutions. Since 1992 its mission has been to provide complete mobile enterprise solutions for both large and small-to-medium sized businesses including PayPoint, Slush Puppie and Virgin Trains. The company designs, develops and supports cutting-edge wireless and mobile computer software solutions that enable its customers to improve productivity, lower costs and enhance customer service.

Contact for further information and images:

Ranbir Sahota, ranbir@vitispr.com, + 44 (0) 844 8841910/07815 090036