



## 15/02/2002: VODACOM SELECTS SPEECH DESIGN AND COMPAQ FOR THE SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF SMS-TO-VOICE SERVICE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg, January 2001, South Africa- Cellular network operator, Vodacom, has selected Speech Design Carrier Systems' Thor solution and Compaq Global Services to deliver mobile SMS (Short Message Services) to any fixed-line telephone.

The service enables the hugely popular SMS messages, previously only viewable on a mobile phones screen, to be received by traditional, fixed-line telephones. When a mobile user sends a message to a non-mobile number, it is recognized automatically by the network and routed to Vodacom's new SMS-to-voice platform, based on Speech Design's Thor software running on Compaq's Telco servers. Thor calls the fixed-line number and reads the message using text-to-speech technology.

Joan Joffe, Group Executive – Corporate Affairs of the Vodacom Group, said: "We are pleased to have worked together with Speech Design and Compaq in launching this innovative value-added service. SMS has been incredibly successful in South Africa and Vodacom is confident that new SMS-based products like TalkingSMS will propel SMS usage in this country to even greater heights."

Jan Martens, Speech Design Carrier System's Managing Director and Renaud Munier, Speech Design's Vice President - International Sales jointly stated, "We are very happy with the Vodacom project win and our cooperation with Compaq. We had the system up and running in a few days – a record time for a carrier-grade installation. The Thor platform has proven itself not only as a robust and scalable unified messaging system, but also as a flexible architecture for other enhanced services that enable innovative carriers to generate additional revenue streams. The SMS-to-voice service is particularly attractive since it rides the SMS success wave and combines easy deployment in existing networks with a quick return on investment, for some carriers as little as a few months. The Vodacom project further reinforces our credentials as a leader in Unified Messaging in the international carrier marketplace".

Henry Ferreira Compaq South Africa's Managing Director stated: "We were elated when Vodacom showed interest in the suite of products, as it would give Compaq and Speech Design the opportunity to demonstrate our partnership in progress. Vodacom, choosing to proceed with the SMS to Voice solution gave us the opportunity to successfully deliver and launch the solution in record time for the holiday season."

### About Vodacom

Since commercial launch in South Africa in 1994, Vodacom Group (Pty) Ltd has become the biggest telecommunications operator on the African continent with networks in South Africa, Lesotho, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Vodacom has a 61% share of the South African market and has some 6.5 million customers across Africa.



### About Speech Design

Speech Design, based in Germany, develops, manufactures, and markets telecommunications peripherals, and Unified Messaging products and services. Speech Design's products are sold to corporate and carrier customers worldwide. Speech Design is a subsidiary of U.S.-based Bogen Communications International, Inc. (Nasdaq: BOGN)

### About Compaq

Founded in 1982, Compaq Computer Corporation is a leading global provider of enterprise technology and solutions. Compaq designs, develops, manufactures and markets hardware, software, solutions and services, including industry-leading enterprise storage and computing solutions, fault-tolerant business-critical solutions, communication products, and desktop and portable personal computers that are sold in more than 200 countries. Information on Compaq and its products and services is available at <http://www.compaq.com>.

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