



News Release

## **ECS Appointed as Authorised Distributor by Red Hat**

- **ECS to distribute full range of Red Hat Enterprise Linux and open source products in Singapore**
- **Industry analysts bullish on open source products and increasingly seeing higher market share over commercial products**

Singapore, 15 August 2006- ECS Computers (Asia) Pte Ltd. announced today that it has been appointed as an authorised distributor for Red Hat products in Singapore. ECS Computers (Asia) Pte Ltd is a 100%-owned subsidiary of SGX-Main-board listed ECS Holdings Limited ("ECS") which is one of the leading info-communications and technology (ICT) distribution firms in Asia Pacific and is renowned for distributing numerous world-class technology products across the region.

"As the market for open source products expands steadily, we are happy to partner with Red Hat to tap this exciting opportunity. Our strong relationship with major software vendors, systems integrators and resellers, coupled with our understanding of their products, will enable us to help Red Hat acquire increasing market share as the opportunities for open source computing increase," said Mr. Jansen Ek, Group Chief Operating Officer of ECS.

"Red Hat has recorded strong growth in Singapore over the last two years both in the subscription of our flagship Red Hat Enterprise Linux products and Global Learning Services for courses and certification in Linux and open source. The large market demand now warrants a wider reach to fully reach all Linux and open source customers in Singapore. We are confident that with ECS's network, we will be able to escalate the enterprise adoption of Red Hat open source offerings," said Shane Owenby, Regional Manager, ASEAN, Red Hat Inc.

Under the agreement, ECS will distribute the full range of Red Hat products, including Red Hat Enterprise Linux in Singapore. Red Hat Enterprise Linux is the leading platform for open source computing, delivers continuous value, and is certified by top enterprise hardware and software vendors. From the desktop to the datacenter, Red Hat Enterprise Linux couples the innovation of open source technology and the stability of a true enterprise-class platform.

Linux is one of the most prominent examples of open source software, the usage of which is steadily rising in terms of server operating system market share. According to industry analysts, open source products worldwide will directly compete with commercial products to displace license revenue from traditional markets during the next four years till 2010. In addition, the market will expand as small and medium-sized business customers and emerging service companies enter this space.



“In line with our growth strategy to increase yields, we are enhancing our product offerings in line with the dynamic needs and trends in each country. This means that we will continue to maintain the momentum in our core IT distribution business to seize opportunities from the shake-out in the regional ICT supply chain,” added Mr. Ek.

Prior to the distributorship agreement, ECS had been a reseller of Red Hat Linux products since Red Hat entered the Singapore market in 2001. In this capacity, as a key differentiator, ECS bundled Red Hat Enterprise Linux products with its own existing IT services team. Presently, ECS also provides for on-site engineers to provide installation, configuration and consulting on Red Hat solutions.

ECS Pericomp Sdn Bhd, 80% indirectly held subsidiary of ECS Holdings Limited, is also an authorised Red Hat distributor for Malaysia.

### end of release ###

*Issued on behalf of the Company by WeR1 Consultants Pte Ltd:*

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About ECS Holdings Limited:

Listed on the Main-board of the Singapore Exchange since 2001, ECS Holdings Limited (“ECS”) is a leading ICT products and services provider, serving and supporting a wide regional customer base. The Group has 32 offices in six countries namely China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines.

The Group’s three main businesses are Enterprise Systems, IT Services and Distribution. Its Enterprise Systems Division designs, installs and implements IT infrastructure for companies, while its IT Services Division provides a comprehensive range of professional, technical support and training services. Leading IT vendors use ECS’ network of over 17,000 channel partners in the region to distribute their products.



The Group has a consistent profit track and a management that is focused on operational excellence to achieve sustainable profit growth and enhance shareholder returns. For FY2005, the Group recorded a net profit after tax of S\$17.3 million on revenue of S\$2.0 billion.

For more information, please log onto: <http://www.ecs.com.sg>

#### About Red Hat, Inc:

Red Hat, the world's leading open source and Linux provider, is headquartered in Raleigh, NC with satellite offices spanning the globe. The most trusted name in open source, CIOs and other senior-level IT executives have ranked Red Hat as the industry's most valued vendor for two consecutive years in the CIO Insight Magazine Vendor Value study. Red Hat is leading Linux and open source solutions into the mainstream by making high-quality, low-cost technology accessible. Red Hat provides operating system software along with applications, management, and middleware solutions, including JBoss Enterprise Middleware Suite (JEMS). Red Hat is accelerating the shift to service-oriented architectures (SOA) and enabling the next generation of web-enabled applications running on a low-cost, secure open source platform. Red Hat also offers support, training and consulting services to its customers worldwide and through top-tier partnerships. Red Hat's open source strategy offers customers a long term plan for building infrastructures that are based on and leverage open source technologies with focus on security and ease of management.

For more information, please log onto: <http://www.redhat.com>.

#### **Forward Looking Statements:**

Certain statements contained in this press release may constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements provide current expectations of future events based on certain assumptions and include any statement that does not directly relate to any historical or current fact. Actual results may differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements as a result of various important factors, including: risks related to the integration of acquisitions; the ability of the Company to effectively compete; the inability to adequately protect Company intellectual property and potential for infringement or breach of license claims regarding third party intellectual property; risks related to data and information security vulnerabilities; ineffective management of, and control over, the Company's growth and international operations; adverse results in litigation; the dependence on key personnel as well as other factors contained in in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K (copies of which may be accessed through the Securities and Exchange Commission's website at <http://www.sec.gov>), including those found therein under the captions "Risk Factors" and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations". In addition, the forward-looking statements included in this press release represent the Company's views as of the date of this press release and these views could change. However, while the Company may elect to update these forward-looking statements at some point in the future, the Company specifically disclaims any obligation



to do so. These forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as representing the Company's views as of any date subsequent to the date of the press release.

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