



IN THE NEWS

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GXS Partners With Covast To Deliver Microsoft BizTalk Server Solution Worldwide *Agreement Packages Best-of-Breed Solutions to Support Real-Time Integration of Global Supply Chains*

Gaithersburg, Md. and Atlanta — May 9, 2006 — GXS and Covast today announced a partnership to enable and support the global delivery of the Microsoft BizTalk Server solution. As leading providers of global business-to-business (B2B) e-commerce solutions, Covast and GXS will package the GXS Trading GridSM, Covast's EDI Accelerator and Microsoft's BizTalk Server software platform into a single advanced B2B integration solution that enhances visibility and control at all levels of the supply chain community. The combined solution, available through both GXS and Covast, takes the comprehensive integration capabilities of BizTalk Server and extends it further to external trading partners, enabling businesses to integrate their B2B infrastructures with internal applications and those of their Internet-based trading partners.

Aligned with GXS' recently announced alliance with Microsoft, GXS will resell the Microsoft BizTalk Server, which includes Covast's EDI Accelerator, to accelerate supply chain integration. In addition, Covast has named the GXS Trading Grid its recommended global B2B network. Customers of the combined solution will have access to more than 40,000 businesses on the GXS Trading Grid, as well as to the advanced features and capabilities of GXS' service-oriented architecture platform.

"B2B e-commerce has become an increasingly complex and challenging process given the amount of data involved and the global nature of the process," said Tim Farmer, manager of the Software Architect Team at Choice Homes. "The combined Covast / GXS solution, using Microsoft BizTalk Server, presents a strong value proposition for managing worldwide trading partner communities. With seamless connectivity and interoperability global trading becomes real-time, efficient and highly manageable. We are looking forward to the benefits this partnership will provide our business."

This agreement, the first industry collaboration to increase technology integration between the Microsoft .NET software platform and the GXS Trading Grid, enables not only real-time peer-to-peer connectivity, but also delivers increased integration between trading partners. The combined solutions will accelerate the reliable exchange of trading partner information by joining the robust software platform of Microsoft BizTalk Server, the EDI to XML functionality of Covast's EDI Accelerator and market-leading GXS hosted service for global B2B messaging. Covast's EDI Accelerator is designed to complement the B2B capabilities of the BizTalk Server environment, and enables companies deploying Microsoft technology to seamlessly connect and interoperate with the GXS Trading Grid.

“Both GXS and Covast are committed to working together to serve customers with a range of solutions that support on-demand supply chain automation and integration,” said Bobby Patrick, senior vice president and chief marketing officer at GXS. “For companies that have standardized on Microsoft technology, GXS and Covast now offer the perfect complement to increase functionality and performance, thus improving their reach across supply chains. We value the expertise and experience with BizTalk Server that Covast brings to this partnership and anticipate delivering the most comprehensive, high-performance solution for the demand-driven supply chain.”

Together, GXS and Covast deliver a business integration platform based on Microsoft technology that can support internal and external integration needs. This platform offers companies the chance to reduce complexity and the number of systems needed to support the supply chain. GXS and Covast have jointly developed advanced Trading Partner Management tools within the platform to accelerate partner enablement, streamline administration and deliver real time supply chain visibility.

“GXS and Covast together offer the ultimate B2B solution to customers that have standardized on Microsoft technology,” said Daan Scheer, chief executive officer at Covast. “This solution not only offers real-time supply chain integration, but more importantly, automated trading partner onboarding and complete supply chain and procurement visibility.”

The GXS Trading GridSM is GXS’ unique global integration platform that enables and streamlines cross-enterprise business processes. The Trading Grid is the world’s largest electronic business community, used by more than 40,000 trading partners to exchange goods and services. As a services-oriented architecture B2B platform, Trading Grid helps customers automate global trading communities by shielding complexity from rapidly changing standards, eliminating manual and duplicative efforts and enabling a new level of process integration and business intelligence.

About Covast

Covast provides the Microsoft recommended EDI solution for BizTalk Server. The combination of Microsoft BizTalk Server, the Covast EDI Accelerator and AS2 Adapter delivers the ultimate B2B solution - enabling companies to easily integrate their EDI infrastructures with internal applications and providing a gateway for connecting trading communities. Covast is a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner. With its European headquarters in the Netherlands and its U.S. headquarters in Atlanta, Covast has strategic relationships with partners and customers including Microsoft, HP, Citrix, Siemens, Ocean Spray, Grampian Foods and ABX Logistics. For more information, visit <http://www.covast.com>.

About GXS

GXS is a leading global provider of B2B e-commerce solutions that simplify and enhance business process integration and collaboration. Organizations worldwide, including more than 75 percent of the Fortune 500, leverage the GXS Trading GridSM to achieve the perfect balance between supply and demand. Active in the global standards arena, GXS enables customers both large and small, to connect with global partners, synchronize product information, optimize inventory levels and demand forecasts and accelerate the execution of supply chains.

Headquartered in Gaithersburg, Md., GXS provides sales and support to businesses and their partners worldwide. For more information visit our Web site at www.gxs.com.

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