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World-Check establishes Specialist Research Unit dedicated to Organised Crime

London, 08 July 2008: World-Check, the leading global provider of intelligence on heightened risk individuals and entities today announced the establishment of the Organised Crime Research Unit (OCRU), a specialist research unit dedicated solely to researching organized crime and counterfeiting.

Manifesting in a vast array of activities, organized crime is a complex phenomenon whereby loose networks work together in order to exploit market opportunities. From drug trafficking to the smuggling of firearms and human beings, organized crime enterprises produce an estimated annual turn-over of US \$2 trillion, and are by far the largest transgressors responsible for money laundering globally.

“Due to the sheer size of crime syndicates and their increasingly pervasive nature in legitimate global and domestic commercial markets, World-Check has identified the need for a unit dedicated solely to identifying and mapping the structures of these organizations, their areas of operations and activities, and the individuals and entities who make up their organisational structures”, said B.C. Tan, Head of World-Check’s Organized Crime Research Unit. “OCRU’s research will present an up-to-date knowledge hub of crime networks and syndicates worldwide, by providing objective and risk relevant intelligence for global business operations and compliance units.”

World-Check’s research output is currently managed by the General Research Unit, the Terrorism and Insurgency Research Unit, the Sanction List Unit and the PEP monitoring Unit.

“The tremendous efforts of our research units have positioned World-Check as the industry leader in Anti Money Laundering, Counter Financing of Terrorism and Know Your Customer products. Key to this success is our researchers’ specialist in-depth understanding of potential areas of regulatory and reputational risk, and their ability to identify these risks ahead of the curve”, said David Leppan, World-Check CEO and Founder. “The newly established OCRU will leverage the wealth of data that our existing research units have accumulated to offer clients highly targeted and pertinent research on organized crime networks”.

The World-Check database comprises almost one million profiles on heightened-risk individuals and entities, including, money launderers, fraudsters, terrorists and their financial rings, sanctioned entities, as well as individuals and businesses from more than a

dozen other categories. As a category of its own, World-Check's PEP coverage is unparalleled, including PEPs from every country in the world plus the relatives, middlemen and companies associated with them. More than 20 000 compliance and legal professionals worldwide rely on World-Check's risk intelligence to perform their duties and functions.

About World-Check

World-Check provides its global database of heightened-risk individuals and businesses to more than 2,900 institutions in 157 countries, including 47 of the world's 50 largest financial institutions and hundreds of government agencies. The database is updated daily in real-time by World-Check's international research team and is derived from hundreds of thousands of public sources. World-Check offers market leading coverage on money launderers, fraudsters, terrorists, organised crime and sanctioned entities amongst others. In addition, World-Check tracks PEPs and their relationship networks plus individuals and businesses from many other categories. World-Check offers a downloadable database for the automated screening of an entire customer base, as well as a simple online service for quick customer screening. A 98% client renewal rate bears testimony to the unparalleled depth, reliability and coverage of this database.

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