

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## World-Check Invited to Participate as Experts in KYC Intelligence at the First Kuwait and Middle East Conference for Combating Money Laundering

**LONDON, October 3, 2006** – World-Check is delighted to announce that David Leppan, CEO and founder of World-Check, the industry pioneer and leader in the provision of KYC and PEP intelligence, has been invited as the sole KYC industry expert to speak at this premier event, to be held in Kuwait on the 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2006, under the special patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Founded in late 2000, World-Check was originally created to meet the Swiss financial industry's KYC and risk-reduction requirements. Five years later over 2000 institutions, including 200+ regulatory and government agencies, 45 of the world's 50 largest banks and 12 of the Middle East's 15 largest banks use the service.

World-Check's pioneering role and success has placed David Leppan in a unique position of understanding the issues, needs and requirements experienced by so many professionals involved in AML, KYC and anti-terrorist financing from both the regulatory and the commercial perspective. World-Check has become a 'knowledge bridge' between those that legislate and those required to find the best way of complying with new legislation in order to, above all, safeguard their reputation. World-Check has, for many years now, been taking an active role in this process.

"It is clear that banks and indeed bankers do not want to appear on the front page of any major newspaper in relation to dictators, terrorists, arms dealers, money launders or any other such individuals," explains David Leppan. "What therefore drives most banks to carry out active KYC and PEP checking is not so much their legislative requirements but rather their reputation risk. Curiously management may initially see Compliance as being a non-profit making department until they come to understand that without effective KYC and AML policies the bank may face multi-million dollar fines, blacklisting by regulators, loss of correspondent banking networks and even a devaluation of share prices. Forward thinking institutions have therefore come to accept they have a responsibility not only to their shareholders, directors and account holders but also to society. Institutions that do not accept they have a key role to play in fighting international crime and terrorism have a hard lesson still to learn. We are delighted at the widespread usage of World-Check in the Middle East."

World-Check, because of its uniqueness, was chosen to assist hundreds of institutions in dramatically and immediately reducing their KYC and PEP risk.

Dealing with so many institutions in more than 130 countries, David Leppan has acquired a unique global perspective of these issues.

David Leppan, has been invited to speak at conferences and seminars around the world on these issues, encouraging the financial industry to take on its social responsibility, emphasizing the importance of open source information gathering and sharing, stressing the necessity for enhanced controls to detect terrorist financing and money laundering networks, and trying to provide insight into the often misconstrued concept of PEPs. David has written numerous articles and White Papers in this respect and is regarded as an expert in AML, KYC, anti-terrorist financing and open source intelligence.

World-Check is proud to be the only expert in KYC and PEP intelligence to be invited to this highly anticipated event.

### **About World-Check**

World-Check is relied upon by more than 2000 institutions, including 45 of the world's 50 largest financial institutions and hundreds of government agencies, with its global database of heightened-risk individuals and businesses. 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. Coverage includes PEPs, money launderers, fraudsters, terrorists and sanctioned entities — plus individuals and businesses from over a dozen other high-risk categories. World-Check's proprietary database and tools have direct use in financial compliance, anti-money laundering (AML), Know-Your-Customer (KYC), Politically Exposed Person (PEP) screening, enhanced due diligence (EDD), fraud prevention, government intelligence and other identity authentication, background screening and risk-prevention practices. 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.

For more information, please visit [www.world-check.com](http://www.world-check.com)