



Health Level Seven, Inc.

For Immediate Release

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Eclipse-Based Message Development and Validation Tools for HL7 Version 3 Released *Major Step Forward in Supporting Global Healthcare Interoperability*

San Diego, California, U.S.A.—January 11, 2007— International software development partnership *HL7 Tooling Collaborative (HTC)* today announced the delivery of the first component of a suite of **Eclipse**-based message development and validation tools for the latest edition of HL7 Version 3 (V3). The HTC suite of tools is a major step forward in global healthcare interoperability that will ultimately improve patient care.

The HTC organization, a software development initiative dedicated to providing commercial-quality highly integrated tools that support the development and implementation of HL7-compliant messages, is led by Health Level Seven, Inc. (HL7) and supported by founding members HL7 Inc., **Eclipse Foundation**, National Health Service Connecting for Health (NHS CFH) in England, Canada Health Infoway Inc., Intel Corp., Mayo Clinic, US Department of Defense, and Quicksilva.

The first delivery provides software developers with tools that enable them to create, edit, and validate healthcare messages and documents based on HL7 V3 designs. The suite delivers tools for interoperability and allows implementers to ensure that their implementations conform to the V3 specification.

The tool to date has been developed jointly by NHS Connecting for Health (NHS CFH) and Jiva Medical with the backing and contributions from members of the HL7 Tooling Community. It provides infrastructure for dealing with V3 artifacts, based on the HL7 V3 Message Interchange Format (MIF). This international effort reinforces HL7's continuing leadership in achieving interoperability of healthcare information and services. The V3 standard has been the result of more than 10 years of development involving national programs and other stakeholders from around the world.

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Speaking at the launch, Jane Curry of HL7, Inc. said, "The development of this suite of tools by the HL7 Tooling Collaborative further reinforces the leadership and the importance of the HL7 messaging standard. It is a major step forward in achieving the vision of interoperability across healthcare systems and settings, which will ultimately greatly improve patient safety and the health quality of citizens across the globe."

The National Health Service (NHS) in England through NHS CFH is a leader in the nationwide exchange of detailed healthcare information using the latest healthcare specifications, including SNOMED CT and HL7 V3. Ken Lunn, representing NHS CFH, commented, "The National Programme for Information Technology in England, which is being delivered by NHS CFH, has already achieved substantial deployments using HL7 V3 messages in clinical and related applications, and has a substantial implementation underway. A strong standards-based approach is critical to our success, and effective tooling support is essential to the implementation of standards."

HL7 Tooling Collaborative

The HL7 Tooling Collaborative envisions building tools that do the following:

- Produce machine-processable artifacts, spanning through all stages of the message design cycle (requirements, design, implementation, and testing)
- Support end-to-end automated testing of interoperability solutions
- Standardize the type and quality of the information conveyed between each stage and between communicating organizations
- Produce coherent, traceable, and versioned concepts from analysis to implementation
- Facilitate direct involvement/feedback in international standards and tools development, ensuring ongoing alignment of implementation specifications with industry standards, including HL7 V3
- Reduce message development time, allowing the automatic translation of message designs to supplier-specific formats
- Facilitates consistent workflows and project management/oversight
- Provide a framework for publishing documentation about the artifacts generated throughout the process.

HL7

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven, Inc. (www.HL7.org) is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited standards developing organization dedicated to providing a comprehensive framework and related standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services. HL7's more than 2,400 members represent approximately 500 corporate members, including 90 percent of the largest information systems vendors serving healthcare.

HL7's activities include: the development and publication of standards; the promotion of the use of those standards; the provision of education, conformance certification services and methodologies for extending standard; encouraging the use of HL7 world wide; and collaboration with developers of other healthcare and information technology standards in leveraging our respective skills, knowledge and standards.

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HL7's endeavors are sponsored, in part, by the support of its benefactors: Accenture; Booz Allen Hamilton, **Boston Scientific Corporation**, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI); Eclipsys Corporation; Eli Lilly & Company; Epic Systems Corporation; the Food and Drug Administration; GE Healthcare Information Technologies; GlaxoSmithKline; **IBM**; Intel Corporation; InterSystems Corporation; Kaiser Permanente; McKesson Provider Technologies; Microsoft Corporation; Misys Healthcare Systems; NHS Connecting for Health; NICTIZ National Healthcare; Novartis; Oracle Corporation; Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; Pfizer, Inc.; Philips Medical Systems; QuadraMed Corporation; Quest Diagnostics Inc.; Science Applications International Corporation; Siemens Medical Solutions Health Services; Solucient, LLC.; St. Jude Medical; the U.S. Department of Defense, Military Health System; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

International affiliates have also been established in 27 countries throughout the globe including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

NHS Connecting for Health

The NHS in England is changing the way it works. Its vision for the future is to have a more modern, efficient, patient-led health service and to give patients more choice and control over their own health and care.

NHS Connecting for Health, which came into operation on April 1, 2005, is an agency of the Department of Health. The purpose is to deliver the National Programme for IT, and to maintain the national critical business systems previously provided by the former NHS Information Authority.

Accurate information is crucial if patients are to have choice and receive the right care at the right time. A key aim of the National Programme for IT in the NHS is to give healthcare professionals access to patient information safely, securely and easily, whenever and wherever it is needed.

The National Programme for IT is creating a multi-billion pound infrastructure, which will improve patient care by enabling clinicians and other NHS staff to increase their efficiency and effectiveness.

It is doing this by:

- Creating an NHS Care Records Service to improve the sharing of patients' records across the NHS with their consent
- Making it easier and faster for GPs and other primary care staff to book hospital appointments for patients
- Providing a system for the electronic transmission of prescriptions
- Ensuring that the IT infrastructure can meet NHS needs now and in the future.

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For More Information Contact:

HL7 Tooling Collaborative

For further information including media and investor inquiries on the HL7 Tooling Collaborative visit:
<http://hl7toolingcollaborative.org/>

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For further information on HL7 visit: <http://www.hl7.org>

NHS Connecting for Health

For further information on NHS CFH visit: <http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk>.

Jiva Medical

For more information about Jiva Medical visit: <http://www.jivamedical.com>

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