

**mobilkom austria Secures Rights to paybox CEE and paybox austria  
Vienna, January 23, 2003 – paybox.net to be restructured - mobilkom austria secures 100%  
interest in paybox CEE, thereby also in paybox austria - Focus of m-commerce on Austria and  
Southeastern European market - Migration of technical paybox systems to Austria**

Following a Europe-wide reorganization of the paybox group, mobilkom austria, which took a 49% share of paybox austria AG on July 13th, 2001, plans to acquire 100% ownership of paybox CEE, thereby also assuming ownership of paybox austria. With this move, the company can ensure the continuation of a working payment standard for Austria and Central Europe.

paybox CEE, which holds licenses for the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary, the Balkan states and Bulgaria as well as paybox austria, will be wholly owned by mobilkom austria upon completion of company restructuring on June 30th, 2003. In Germany, paybox will withdraw from the private customer segment, using the restructuring to focus its efforts on the business-to-business sector. "The takeover of paybox CEE allows us to offer m-commerce solutions both in Austria as well as in Southeastern Europe," reports Dr. Hannes Ametsreiter, Director of Marketing, Distribution and Customer Services for mobilkom austria.

In the course of the reorganization, the paybox IT-system will migrate to Austria, making it possible to operate the system far more economically and use synergies more effectively. "This sets the stage for an Austrian provider platform, which could include other mobile communications companies as well as banks," says Ametsreiter.

**mobilkom austria Leads the Way in M-Commerce Sector**

mobilkom austria began offering m-commerce in 1999, launching Austria's first tangible application, mobile ticketing, together with the ÖBB (Austrian Federal Railways). In addition to this service, mobilkom austria also focused on entertainment (concerts, the Lifeball), sports (betting, Formula 1), and movies. After acquiring a stake in paybox austria on July 13th, 2001, January 2002 saw mobilkom austria become the world's first mobile communications provider to establish a bank. The A1 Bank holds a banking license that allows it to carry out financial transactions. "With the combination of mobile payment solutions and a banking license, we have everything necessary to develop innovative m-commerce applications for our customers - from micro-payment solutions and prepaid solutions to activated guarantees for Austrian retailers. At the same time, we are establishing a standard that gives all mobile phone customers in Austria access to services and guarantees secure transactions," says Ametsreiter.

**Mobile Ticket Solution in Austria - Successes in Croatia**

mobilkom austria recently introduced the latest m-commerce applications, which allow users to buy ski tickets by mobile phone, take out insurance, and use their mobile phone to pay parking fees in Vienna. During the Wiener Festwochen (Vienna International Festival), mobilkom austria makes it possible for those interested in the arts to order and pay for tickets via mobile phone. mobilkom austria's Croatian subsidiary, VIPnet, has been offering a mobile parking-fee payment solution since the summer of 2001, which has been enormously successful since its launch.

**New Management Board for paybox austria**

The increased commitment to paybox austria has also led to the restaffing of the paybox austria management board. On January 1st, 2003, Jochen Punzet (33) became the new Director of Marketing, Distribution and Finances. Punzet had held leading positions at mobilkom austria for several years prior to this appointment. Norbert Burkhart, former CEO of paybox austria AG, will now be responsible for Distribution and Marketing with the paybox group. At the same time, Thomas Capka (45), was named COO. Capka brings with him comprehensive knowledge of the credit card sector, thanks to experience gained at VISA Austria; he has been with paybox austria since 2001.

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