PRIME
Privacy and Identity Management for Europe

PRESS RELEASE

European Union launches 16 Million Euro R&D Project on Privacy and Identity Management

"PRIME – Privacy and Identity Management for Europe" *is the name of a 4-year project, conducted within the EU 6th Framework Programme, which was launched on March 1st, 2004. Its objective is the research and development of solutions to empower individuals in managing their privacy in cyberspace. The kick-off meeting of the PRIME project was held in Brunnen, Switzerland on 8-12 March, 2004.*

"I very much welcome PRIME's ambition to bring 'privacy-enhancing identity management solutions' to European end-users. PRIME's fundamental principles of 'data minimisation' and 'privacy by design' will make the Information Society of Europe safer and more secure, and will also improve its competitive edge", said Peter Hustinx, European Data Protection Supervisor.

In the online world, every person has to handle numerous accounts and data sets. These so-called "digital identities" will increasingly play a key role in future electronic services as well as in public security (e.g., border controls). They may very well convey sensitive personal data, such as patient health data, employee data, credit card data, etc. Surveys have shown that people now feel their privacy is at risk from identity theft and erosion of individual rights. In the Information Society, people want to interact securely and safely while maintaining control of their personal data. PRIME focuses on **solutions for privacy-enhancing identity management** that supports end-users' sovereignty over their private sphere and enterprises' privacy-compliant data processing.

The European Commission has been promoting Privacy-Enhancing Technologies (PETs) for several years now. Experts from industry, administration, academia, and data protection authorities have acknowledged that a key feature of PETs is data minimisation, i.e., limiting the collection of personal data to only what is needed. They
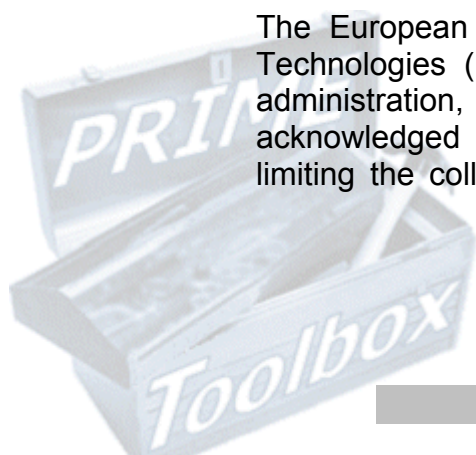
agree that PETs should be built into information systems by design rather than as an afterthought. PRIME presents a **comprehensive response** to the end-users' needs to minimise disclosure of personal data while accessing services and to enforce their privacy preferences.

PRIME will be driven by technical, legal, social, economic, and usability requirements. It is extremely important to develop models to make identity management easy for users and service providers to understand. To foster market adoption, novel solutions for managing identities will be **demonstrated in challenging real-world scenarios**, e.g., from Travel, Location Based Services, e-Learning, and e-Health. The results of PRIME will be monitored by a Reference Group formed by experts from industry, public administration, consumer protection and citizen rights organisations, R&D, standardisation bodies, data protection authorities, and law enforcement agencies.

PRIME is a **multidisciplinary consortium** consisting of IBM (project co-ordination: IBM France; scientific and technical lead: IBM Research, Switzerland); Katholieke Universiteit Leuven from Belgium; Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique/LAAS and Institut EURECOM from France; Unabhängiges Landeszentrum für Datenschutz Schleswig-Holstein, Technische Universität Dresden, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, RWTH Aachen, JaTeK GmbH, Deutsche Lufthansa, and T-Mobile from Germany; Università di Milano, Joint Research Centre/IPSC, and Fondazione Centro San Raffaele del Monte Tabor from Italy; Universiteit van Tilburg and Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam from the Netherlands; Karlstads Universitet from Sweden; Swisscom from Switzerland; Hewlett-Packard in the UK; and Chaum LLC from the USA. Several PRIME members are participating in industry and standardisation groups like the World Wide Web Consortium, OASIS, Liberty Alliance, ISO/IEC JTC 1, and IETF.