

**Active Again - Vesuvius signs 5 year network management extension with Vanco**

**27<sup>th</sup> February 2008** – Vesuvius, a division of Cookson Group plc, world leader in the design, engineering, manufacture and delivery of refractory products, systems and services for high-technology industrial applications has renewed its contract with the pioneering global Virtual Network Operator (VNO) Vanco, for the upgrade and management of a its global Wide Area Network (WAN).

Under the terms of the five year contract extension, worth over \$6.5 million, Vanco will migrate the Vesuvius network from a single global MPLS carrier design to Vanco's MPLS Matrix Solution, providing end-to-end connectivity for 88 locations in 27 countries. IPSec will also continue to be used as a key technology within the overall solution for diverse back-up and achieving global reach at acceptable cost. Geographically, Vesuvius is a very widespread business with operations spanning 30 countries on 5 continents.

"Having proved their ability to deliver the last 3 years, Vesuvius renewed with Vanco because of their operational service quality, their ability to drive cost out of the network by integrating carriers where they have coverage and their commitment to review the network solution on a yearly basis, meaning we are not locked in to a given technology or carrier supplier" states Pierre Combemale, CIO, Vesuvius.

Vanco's MPLS Matrix is a global offering which allows multi-carrier networks, based on the Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) standard, to be managed as a single entity supporting end-to-end service and performance level agreements. "Vanco's MPLS Matrix Solutions enables Vesuvius to use multiple infrastructures from the most suitable MPLS network suppliers with fully consistent end-to-end service guarantees across our network regardless of the geographical location." adds Combemale.

"Vanco is delighted to be able to continue to work with Vesuvius – a cornerstone Vanco US customer since 2005. They had a growing need for a new solution benefiting from the highest flexibility without the burden of managing multiple suppliers. The end result is enhanced flexibility to cater for major business changes such as entering new geographic markets or integrating potential acquisitions in the future", concluded Tim Sullivan, Senior Vice President of Vanco U.S.

**About Vesuvius:**

Vesuvius is the world leader in the supply of advanced flow control refractory products and systems to the global steel industry and a leading supplier of specialist ceramic products to the glass and foundry industries. It is also the regional leader in the US, UK and Australia in the supply and installation of monolithic refractory linings.

Vesuvius is a division of Cookson Group's plc, the leading materials science company operating on a worldwide basis in Ceramics, Electronics and Precious Metals markets.

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