

RFID has potential to revolutionize India's global competitiveness: Kris Gopalakrishnan

New Delhi, November 9, 2004: Delivering the keynote address at India's first EPCGlobal RFID event, Kris Gopalakrishnan, COO, Infosys Technologies Ltd said that RFID offers tremendous potential for catalysing India's growth and development. However, the transformative potential of RFID cannot be taken for granted as there are many challenges en route.

Elaborating on the RFID revolution and its opportunities in India, Kris discussed how RFID can catalyse India's global competitiveness. "India stands at the threshold of a great revolution. Not only does RFID afford the opportunity to build on our proven software services strengths, we now also have the opportunity to leverage our high level of engineering skills and lower cost manufacturing capabilities to be at the forefront of a virtually new segment of IT hardware. India thus has all the pieces necessary to offer a complete RFID ecosystem". He pointed out that with RFID, India has another opportunity to leapfrog into a next generation technology. "We can replicate our phenomenal success in the mobile telephony space with RFID, just as we migrated from the then conventional wire line technology and moved straight to GSM".

Speaking on the recent renewal of interest in RFID, he said, "Though the core technology is over fifty years old, it is our existence in this information driven world that is driving its resurgence – more and more information is generated, stored, exchanged and used in electronic form and what RFID offers is an efficient way to do this." Talking on the benefits of RFID, he shared how enterprises can benefit from real time information on their products and assets throughout the value chain.

Talking about the use of RFID in various verticals, Kris said that the manufacturing sector has the potential to leap frog to the next level of efficiency in managing their supply chains and start competing more effectively with global players like China. In the pharmaceutical sector, RFID can improve raw material tracking for the manufacturing audit trail right from the factory floor to avoid counterfeiting of drugs, speeding clinical trials etc. In the transport sector, RFID can be used in fleet management, toll collection on highways etc. Kris added, "There's no doubt that there is a significant opportunity for Indian software companies".

He pointed out that key to the success of RFID will be an architecture that can sieve through volumes of transactional data to identify actionable information and trigger intelligent decision making. Talking about the challenges that India faced in its attempts to capitalise on the RFID revolution, Kris pointed out the urgent need to allocate UHF spectrum that is aligned with international standards and urged the government to take necessary steps in this regard.

With its comprehensive solution that addresses both business and technology aspects of RFID, Infosys has helped plan, evaluate and implement RFID solutions for U.S. and European global clients in various industries.

About Infosys Technologies Ltd. (Nasdaq: INFY)

Infosys, a world leader in consulting and information technology services, partners with Global 2000 companies to provide business consulting, systems integration, application development and product engineering services. Through these services, Infosys enables its clients to fully exploit technology for business transformation. Clients leverage Infosys' Global Delivery Model to achieve higher quality, rapid time-to-market and cost-effective solutions. Infosys has more than 30,000 employees in over 35 offices worldwide. For more information, visit www.infosys.com

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