Press release

Date: 10 November 2014

For immediate release

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Barco control room management software earns coveted US Army certificate of networthiness

Sacramento, CA — 10 November 2014 — Visualization pioneer Barco announced today that the US Army's Network Technology Command has awarded a Certificate of Networthiness (CoN) to Barco's CMS-100 Control Room Management suite.

When it comes to installing vendor software onto its IT networks, "good" isn't good enough for the US Army. As one of the world's most security conscious organizations, Army regulations mandate that prior to installation, all outside software must meet stringent standards for security, supportability, sustainability, and compatibility. Now with the awarding of this CoN, Barco joins a select group of vendors and products possessing the highest quality criteria required to meet Army software regulations.

Built on the foundation of a robust, centralized, high-speed content server, Barco's CMS suite enables users to create "perspectives" comprised of desktop or enterprise applications, video, data, web feeds and streaming media, and to share those perspectives among any workstation or display on the facility's network. The system's speed is maximized by its ability to convert all inputs to IP (Internet Protocol), eliminating the need for expensive analog routers, and thus providing a common data format that's easy to share and distribute.

The CMS-100 suite's CoN evolved from the opening of the Army's new 7th Signal Command Headquarters, based at Ft. Gordon, Georgia, which provides information management capabilities on a worldwide basis for U.S. military assets. To implement the visual display systems in the new headquarters, the Army selected Critical Space Solutions (CSS) as the prime contractor and system designer/integrator. According to CSS director Tyler Bonner, his company's selection of CMS-100 as the system's software foundation was obvious and immediate.   "We actually wrote our project spec around the CMS-100 at the very start because we knew, from prior installations, that it would be the best choice for this project," Bonner said. "Based on our recommendation, the Army was willing to sponsor the extensive certification process."

Central to 7th Signal Command operations is a large control room facility at Ft. Gordon, where information of many types (data, voice, graphics, satellite feeds, teleconferences, and classified sources), are received, evaluated, organized and shared among qualified personnel. This multitude of converging data streams creates the need for a robust, flexible and secure method for routing signals to destination monitors. With its unique capabilities to "collect, control and collaborate," Barco's exclusive CMS-100 suite offered a superior solution to the Army's requirements. "Through this CoN, the US Army has indicated that Barco's CMS software is good enough and secure enough for use on their classified enterprise level networks," explained Robert Wu, Senior Director of Market Strategy. "Specifically, this approval means that CMS suite

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is expected to be fully compliant to all their military STIGs (Security Technical Implementation Guidelines) and is pre-certified for loading directly onto their networks, pending testing by the integrator." Wu added.

A big plus for the CMS suite is its ability to run on the Army's installed IT hardware without special modification. The software is, in effect, a cross platform collaborative tool that allows users to share content and visual information across standard IP infrastructures, regardless of operating system or platform. These characteristics make the CMS-100 suite a particularly strong fit for the 7th Signal Command with its large, pre-existing IT hardware base. The CMS suite's inherent scalability to match future growth and user needs was also highly important to the Ft. Gordon installation. "When the government asked us to quote this project at Ft. Gordon, they were very interested in the software's capabilities to not only perform information sharing, but also the scalability it provided, noted Pat Sweeney, Federal Government Market Manager. "Because the CMS suite's design provides an inexpensive way of adding sources and destinations as you go forward, it's designed to be both backwards compatible towards standard AVR architectures, and forwards compatible towards network centric content sharing," Sweeney further explained.

CMS's scalability goes hand-in-hand with long-term value, adds Tyler Bonner. "CMS's scalability makes it an excellent cost-effective solution that fits today's way of thinking in terms of how people work. By that I mean it lets you access information, distribute information and collaborate on data in a real time fashion, with plenty of room to expand when necessary. That makes for a good long-term solution." Bonner commented.

Now that it's officially certified for networthiness, the CMS-100 suite is set for future installations within the U.S. military's vast command IT infrastructure. With a seal of approval from this most demanding of customers, Barco is now primed to offer its powerful control room management solutions to other markets operating in secure or sensitive environments.

About Barco

Barco, a global technology company, designs and develops visualization products for a variety of selected professional markets. Barco has its own facilities for Sales & Marketing, Customer Support, R&D and Manufacturing in Europe, North America and Asia Pacific. Barco (NYSE Euronext Brussels: BAR) is active in more than 90 countries with about 3300 employees worldwide. Barco posted sales of 725 million euro in 2008.

Press release researched and written for Barco Marketing by RB Productions, San Mateo CA.

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