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CGN & Associates Enables Federal Interoperability for State of Illinois *National-Scale “Spring Ahead” Demonstration Validates Interoperability*

Peoria, Illinois – June 1, 2009 (CGN) – The State of Illinois recently participated in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Office of National Capital Region Coordination (NCRC)'s *Spring Ahead*, a Federal and Mutual Aid multi-jurisdictional electronic validation demonstration leveraging Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 201-compliant and FIPS 201-interoperable credentials. CGN & Associates, a business performance consulting firm, provided program management for the State of Illinois FIPS 201 Interoperable Secure Credentialing project. More than 30 organizations in 20 locations across the United States simultaneously participated in FEMA's *Spring Ahead*, which consisted of eight scenarios.

CGN & Associates coordinated participants and technology support to successfully deliver the State of Illinois portion of the demonstration. Illinois' participation demonstrated the ability for state-wide emergency response officials to be validated using FIPS 201 interoperability standards. A representative sample of Illinois-based emergency response officials from the emergency management, fire rescue, law enforcement, and critical infrastructure sectors reported to a simulated emergency operations center and presented smart credentials for electronic authentication and entry to the scene. Also participating in the demonstration were Entrust, Inc. represented by Brent Crossland; Corestreet, Ltd. Represented by Paul DeCrisantis; and Salamander Technologies represented by Joseph Robinson, along with their partner, IdentiSys, represented by Joe Samuels. These companies provided on-site technical support for credential validation. Illinois has developed the first state-level, non-hosted, smart credential solution to achieve federal interoperability.

Throughout the course of this project CGN & Associates managed a very diverse group of stakeholders and vendors, coordinated interagency cooperation, and oversaw complex intricacies in order to stand-up a credentialing solution to meet the new standards. Dennis Glavin, a PMP at CGN & Associates, serves as the project manager for the State of Illinois and commented, “This demonstration was a major milestone in a multi-year project with contributions from numerous state agencies and associations. The emergency response community in Illinois recognized early on that

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the ability to authenticate identity of responders from multiple jurisdictions, as well as having Illinois emergency responders recognized outside of the state, was of tremendous value. I am very pleased with the results of the demonstration.”

“CGN & Associates is very pleased to be a part of the successful Stat of Illinois Federal Interoperable Smart Card Credentialing and we congratulate the State of Illinois on reaching this phase of their project,” says Navneet Arora, Partner at CGN & Associates. “CGN’s process management to support federal interoperability along with our unique approach to business transformation is a perfect fit for managing the complexity of credentialing with today’s technology demands and the relatively new FIPS 201 standards.”

About CGN & Associates:

CGN is a global business performance consulting firm with a presence in the USA, China, India, and Europe. CGN works with clients to address their most pressing management challenges in the area of lean operations and supply chain, material cost management, lean product development, human capital management, and business-technology integration. Their unique methodologies and simulation tools help clients succeed on their own terms.

For over two decades CGN leaders have been performance partners with Fortune 500 companies and government agencies. They have helped to create adaptive business models that continually enable our customers to respond, innovate, and lead. CGN’s solutions are high-velocity, high-impact, and sustainable. They are derived from their non-traditional approach to management consulting. CGN serves major industry sectors including automotive, manufacturing, financial services, insurance, healthcare, and government.

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For more information regarding CGN or the above release, please contact Caitlin Bahr at 309-495-2406 or via email at cbahr@cgn.net.

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