



NEWS RELEASE

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VICS Endorses UCCnet GLOBALregistry™ *Retail Industry Association Joins Leading Companies, Grocery Manufacturers of America, and Food Marketing Institute*

LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J. August 6, 2002 - UCCnet announced today that the Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Standards (VICS) Association Board of Directors has endorsed UCCnet's GLOBALregistry as the central item data registry for the industry. The VICS Board also endorsed the Global Data Synchronization System among trade exchanges and data sources worldwide, and the EAN-UCC Global Standards Management Process (GSMP) as the industry method for standards formation and approval.

VICS endorsement includes signing what was initially a consumer packaged goods (CPG) [industry letter](#) first produced by the Grocery Manufacturers of America (GMA), the Food Marketing Institute (FMI) and 16 top manufacturers and retailers in April. The letter, which urged the entire consumer packaged goods (CPG) industry to adopt the UCCnet GLOBALregistry™ as the North American standard for electronic data sharing, has since attracted formal endorsements from more than 27 industry leading companies and organizations. UCCnet currently has more than 140 subscribers to its industry-standards based, item registry and data synchronization services.

“The industry backing of VICS, the leading business process standards association across non-grocery retail, is important for UCCnet. VICS represents a significant portion of the retail industry, including general merchandise as well as several CPG companies. In addition, it counts some of the largest international companies among its members,” Paul Benchener, President and Chief Operating Officer, UCCnet. “Their support of UCCnet services will further accelerate adoption.”

“As an industry group that has seen numerous industry initiatives develop, VICS is excited about the potential of the standards-based GLOBALregistry and data synchronization services that UCCnet provides and the bottom line business benefits the entire industry will experience,” said Ron Griffin, Executive Vice President and CIO, The Fleming Companies, Inc., and Chairman of the VICS Board. “With so much promise for future technologies such as scan-based trading and CPF®[®], VICS firmly believes that the general merchandise industry must also adopt UCCnet today. It is the bridge to the industry's future.”

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The decision by the VICS board to endorse UCCnet's GLOBALregistry and a global data synchronization system was made partially on the basis of an A.T. Kearney study on e-collaboration, commissioned by the Food Marketing Institute (FMI) and Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA). The study estimated that \$40 billion, or 3.5 percent, of total sales lost each year are due to supply chain information inefficiencies. Specifically, the study showed that 30 percent of item data in retail catalogs have errors, which cost between \$60 and \$80 each and consume 25 minutes of manual cleansing per SKU. Other findings revealed that 60 percent of all invoices generated errors and 43 percent of all invoices resulted in deductions. The study concluded that a single item registry and item synchronization are required to move e-collaboration forward, both of which are provided by UCCnet's GLOBALregistry and data synchronization system.

"VICS has joined a large group of companies and organizations that have endorsed UCCnet, and an even larger group that have begun implementing our services," said Paul Benchener, President and COO of UCCnet. "Their support, as well as the endorsements of other industry leaders, should send a signal that companies should join UCCnet today in order to collaborate efficiently with their partners tomorrow."

UCCnet enables registration and synchronization of item information, such as weight and dimensions, by providing a repository for standardized item, location and trading partner data. Suppliers load item, location and trading partner information into the UCCnet GLOBALregistry. UCCnet checks the data for compliance to industry standards and synchronize the data with demand side partners, ensuring that all trading partners are using identical, updated, standards-compliant data.

UCCnet users are able to considerably reduce errant purchase orders, returned shipments, reductions, logistics systems errors and associated costs throughout the supply chain. UCCnet services help retailers ensure they have the right products at the right retail locations at the right time, and enable suppliers to decrease deductions and improve speed to market for new products.

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About UCCnet

UCCnet is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt neutral organization that provides item registry and data synchronization based on industry-developed standards. Through its support of global EAN•UCC standards, UCCnet delivers an open platform for collaborative commerce services, including compliance verification, synchronization of product information, registry and lifecycle management of synchronized products, user locations and user trade capabilities.

As a subsidiary of the Uniform Code Council, Inc., the global standards organization, UCCnet leverages its position to enable the rapid, clear development of industry Internet standards and practices. In addition, UCCnet provides implementation methodology, allowing small, medium and large enterprises to integrate eCommerce into their business in a swift and efficient manner. For more information, visit www.UCCnet.org.

About the Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Standards (VICS) Association

The mission of the VICS Association is to take a global leadership role in the ongoing improvement of the flow of product and information about the product throughout the entire supply chain in the retail industry. The Association's overall global objective is to improve product availability to the consumer by providing leadership and encouragement in the identification, development and implementation of volunteer standards, protocols, guidelines, and other mechanisms, which when properly utilized, are expected to lead to better anticipation of, and reaction to, changes in consumer demand for these products with the subsequent optimization of production and carrying costs.