HCL AXON joins SAP Africa's Service Alliance Partnership programme

South Africa / London /Noida, India: 9 November, 2010: HCL AXON, a division of HCL Technologies and a provider of business transformation consulting services through the innovative implementation and support of SAP® applications, has been admitted to SAP Africa's National Service Alliance Partnership programme.

The National Service Alliance Partnership programme includes Consultants that offer comprehensive services to key SAP accounts in a particular market. Alliance partners work closely with SAP to develop local markets and to deliver services. Participation at this level is by invitation only and requires a sufficient number of certified consultants.

Keith du Plessis, HCL AXON's Head of Business Transformation Services for South Africa said, "Although HCL AXON already has a Global Alliance with SAP, we recognise the need to engage with SAP in the regions they operate in. We are already providing SAP transformation services to a number of leading organisations in South Africa and envisage that through this partnership we will be better able to service the local market."

In 2009, HCL AXON completed the acquisition of UCS Group's Enterprise Solutions SAP practice. This acquisition deepened HCL AXON's SAP® Retail capabilities and provided a significant boost to the company's presence in South Africa.

"We welcome HCL AXON into the SAP National Service Alliance Partnership programme in South Africa, cementing their position as a committed local service provider. We are already working with HCL AXON to bring new innovative solutions to the market in areas such as Linear Asset Management. HCL AXON has built a solid reputation for delivery and we look forward to their continued contribution to drive business benefits for our customers", commented Mark Timms, Manager: SAP Global Ecosystem and Partner Group.

"The company has successfully completed the integration of the organisation into HCL AXON's global delivery model and achieved significant success in delivering new solutions for our customers. Addressing the needs of the emerging markets is a key strategy for growth of HCL AXON and parallels the strategic objectives of a number of our global customers. This partnership demonstrates our commitment to the region, enabling us to leverage our existing relationship with SAP to the benefit of our customers across Africa." added Stephen Cardell, President, HCL AXON.

Commenting on the Alliance, Bronwen Rohland, Director of Supply Chain, IT, Marketing and Sustainability at Pick n Pay said, "HCL AXON and SAP Africa are key partners for Pick n Pay, having significantly contributed to the transformation of a number of our critical business functions over the years. We continue to work closely with both organisations to deliver even greater value in retaining Pick n Pay's position as a leading retailer and supporting our growth plans across Africa. We see the implementation of a local alliance agreement between these two key partners as demonstration of their joint commitment to continue with the provision of innovation and thought-leadership in our region".

"The SAP Alliance Partnership is a Critical partner to our Go to Market Focus in the African Continent, we plan to extensively focus on Markets beyond South Africa with specific focus on Kenya , Nigeria , Ghana and Angola".added Hitesh Jain, Vice President (Africa , Russia & Turkey)

About HCL AXON

HCL AXON (www.hcl-axon.com), a division of HCL Technologies, is a Business Transformation consultancy that delivers significant value to large, complex organizations through the innovative implementation and support of SAP technologies. HCL AXON has over 7,500 of the industry's most experienced professionals specializing in the delivery of sustained business improvement through technology enabled transformation programs. HCL AXON's consultants bring in-depth industry expertise alongside best practice functional knowledge to address the strategic, operational, information management and organizational effectiveness challenges faced by organizations today. HCL AXON is renowned for its global ability to help clients define more ambitious strategies, build more effective organizations and shape more successful futures.

About HCL

HCL is a $5 billion leading global Technology and IT Enterprise that comprises two companies listed in India – HCL Technologies & HCL Infosystems. Founded in 1976, HCL is one of India's original IT garage start-ups, a pioneer of modern computing, and a global transformational enterprise today. Its range of offerings spans Product Engineering, Custom & Package Applications, BPO, IT Infrastructure Services, IT Hardware, Systems Integration, and distribution of ICT products across a wide range of focused industry verticals. The HCL team comprises over 72000 professionals of diverse nationalities, who operate from 26 countries including over 500 points of presence in India. HCL has global partnerships with several leading Fortune 1000 firms, including leading IT and Technology firms. For more information, please visit www.hcl.in

About SAP

SAP is the world's leading provider of business software(*), offering applications and services that enable companies of all sizes and in more than 25 industries to become best-run businesses. With more than 97,000 customers in over 120 countries, the company is listed on several exchanges, including the Frankfurt stock exchange and NYSE, under the symbol "SAP." For more information, visit http://www.sap.com.

 (*) SAP defines business software as comprising enterprise resource planning, business intelligence, and related applications.

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