PRESS RELEASE : Cloud Drives the Future – An Open Cloud Declaration

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Today OpenForum Europe announces the release of Version 1 of the Open Cloud Declaration Link to Declaration, a visionary document which we believe will serve as a foundation upon which to drive industry, government and institutional behaviour with respect to cloud computing. The Declaration sets forth ten founding principles explaining our vision for an Open Cloud.

This initial release of the Declaration has been developed in close discussion with a wide range of companies and organisations, extending beyond OFE's list of members and partners. This is just the start of a process to foster a constructive debate with all stakeholders. We therefore call on every organisation, whether from industry, the community, governmental or academia, interested in participating in this dialogue to not only express their support by signing the Declaration, but also invite them to contribute more directly. We plan to establish an ongoing working group of all supporters to further develop these Founding Open Principles, refining, updating and extending as appropriate.

We recognise that for cloud-based computing to succeed, its customers need to have confidence in it. Similarly, the benefits of cloud solutions and their efficiencies of scope and scale can only be realized in an environment that clearly supports responsible global information flows.

We therefore support a global and open approach to Cloud technologies and solutions, which we believe will provide the greatest long term benefit for users and suppliers alike. Such cloud solutions can offer opportunities for cloud service providers to work globally or within defined borders as they choose while still being compliant with applicable best practice, legal and policy requirements.

Within Europe efforts being made by the European Commission alongside industry, to accelerate the uptake of cloud computing solutions are positive. But we are all no doubt well aware of the collateral damage that PRISM revelations may be causing to global cloud computing - cross national boundary and global cloud services and solutions. Vice President Kroes has been quick to reinforce her message not to create a 'Fortress Europe' but we see an increased risk of 'knee jerk' reactions which go in the other direction, made under the understandable intentions of building trust and confidence.

We believe that the full benefits of cloud can only be reaped by a global definition and such moves could not only isolate Europe, but also work to the detriment of users and suppliers wishing to benefit from a global approach. Equally Cloud needs to be open, in every sense, not just to maximise interoperability, but also to maximise competition and choice through commercial best practice.

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