Release: Immediate

World-Check launches Country-Check, a holistic approach to risk management

London, 10 September 2008. World-Check today launched Country-Check, a ground-breaking fully customisable country risk management tool for 243 countries and territories worldwide, making it the most comprehensive ranking index of its kind.

Engineered by World-Check in collaboration with a team of leading UK statisticians and computer scientists, Country-Check is the result of dedicated research and development in line with growing market demand for a holistic risk assessment tool. The system aggregates more than 80 credible public domain sources into political, economic and criminal risk factors. The criminality factor also includes dimensions relating to corruption, embezzlement, money laundering and the overall crime rate, setting Country-Check apart in terms of innovation, reliability, quality and the depth and breadth of its coverage.

Institutional analysts and financial project managers across the board stand to benefit from the system's customisable risk rankings, with specific application within the financial and regulated industries. Uses for this ground-breaking system include country profiling and analysis, foreign market expansion, credit risk management, and financial management and planning.

Country-Check can be adjusted to reflect industry-specific requirements and thereby enables institutions to employ their own expertise when evaluating risk.

"The model underlying the Country-Check system provides an efficient and accurate solution for pre-specified sources of online information to be aggregated in a transparent manner", said development team leader Professor Mark d'Inverno. Professor Jon Forster, who led the statistical model development, said, "The model allows data from multiple sources and user input to be coherently combined in principled calculations, and for uncertainty to be effectively calibrated." He added that, "The resulting Country-Check Master Index assumptions are transparent and provides a verifiable model for country-specific risk assessment."

"Based on user feedback received since the Beta launch of Country-Check in April 2008, key enhancements have been implemented to increase performance", said Ridzwan Aminuddin,

Country-Check project manager. "These enhancements include a 400% increase in system calculation speed, full availability and access to the Custom Weight Setting Module and improvements, as well as further additions to the source list."

"We are extremely excited and proud to launch such an innovative system which will empower institutions to develop informed risk mitigation policies and make sound decisions about jurisdictional risk," said David Leppan, Founder and Chairman of World-Check. "Country-Check is the product of our commitment to continued investment in innovative solutions, research specialists and value-added services based on our client needs, and we will continue to do so in the coming years."

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About World-Check

World-Check provides its global database of heightened-risk individuals and businesses to more than 3000 institutions in 162 countries, including 47 of the world's 50 largest financial institutions and hundreds of government agencies. World-Check's database of known money launderers, fraudsters, terrorists, narcotics traffickers, shell banks and sanctioned entities is unparalleled in its depth, reliability and coverage. The risk-relevance of its Politically Exposed Person (PEP) coverage is also unsurpassed. World-Check's database is relied upon by institutions to enhance their Anti Money Laundering (AML) and Know Your Customer (KYC) screening, Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD), fraud prevention and Counter Terrorist Financing (CFT) systems by efficiently screening customers, associates, transactions and employees for potential risk. World-Check's intelligence also finds direct application in PEP risk screening processes.

World-Check offers a downloadable database for the automated screening of an entire customer base, as well as a simple online service for quick customer screening.