

## Press Release

London, England, 19th January 2009

### **Optial announces further expansion into the EHS market with the appointment of *convergence consulting LLC* as strategic partner**

**London, England** – Optial, a leading developer of operational risk software solutions, announced today that it is expanding its Environmental Health and Safety focus further through the appointment of *convergence consulting LLC* as a strategic partner.

*Convergence* will work with Optial to deliver an integrated audit, compliance and risk management solution focused exclusively on environmental, health and safety.

Headquartered in the US, *convergence* was established to solely focus on business solutions for global environmental, health, safety and social (EHS<sup>2</sup>) challenges, through effective management consulting.

Commenting on the partnership Chris O'Brien, CEO of Optial said: *"This partnership builds on both companies' expertise providing our customers with the industry's most comprehensive EHS solutions. Convergence consulting is known for their strength in worldwide EHS auditing and management consulting services for multinationals, whilst Optial's EHS software solution has been developed to provide an effective means of collecting, managing and reporting EHS information across a business. The Optial EHS solution delivers full configurability, dashboard reporting and Key Risk Indicators in either a standalone or fully integrated solution. By partnering with convergence we can provide relevant and cost-effective EHS solutions and enhance the value of our offering."*

Cynthia Chiles, President of *convergence* says: *"I believe that multinational companies are now ready to embrace enterprise-wide software to assist in the management of their EHS performance. The next few years it will be particularly important for companies to remain effective and continue to improve their EHS performance but with fewer resources. Optial's EHS software solution is an excellent tool to support this objective. Our worldwide EHS consulting forces coupled with Optial's powerful EHS software will be a valuable addition to the marketplace."*

#### **About convergence consulting**

Headquartered in the US *Convergence Consulting LLC* is an environmental, health, safety and social (EHS<sup>2</sup>) management consultancy with a focus and expertise in international (multi-country) projects and programs for multinationals, especially those in the pharmaceutical, chemical, petrochemical and manufacturing sectors. Established in 2001 with offices in the US and UK, they exclusively provide EHS<sup>2</sup> management consulting services, in particular auditing, EHS legal compliance support, management systems, and strategic consulting involving sustainability, EHS<sup>2</sup> performance metrics, supply chain EHS<sup>2</sup> assessment and management, etc.

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### About Optial

Optial ([www.optial.com](http://www.optial.com)) has the largest installed blue-chip geographic footprint of any Operational Risk software platform: it is deployed across 50 countries by a client base including companies such as Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB (SEB), Atos Worldline and Standard Chartered Bank. It is supported from centres in London, Atlanta and Sydney.

The Optial platform delivers rapid configuration, low-cost deployment and low maintenance with future-proofing. Built-in KRIs and Loss Database allow firms to align their system with Basel II requirements for Operational Risk Management, and Optial Business Intelligence delivers slice and dice management information. Optial's Web Services interfaces and software developer kit enable simplified integration with other systems such as HR and CRM for two-way automated data exchange and single sign on.

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