ECDL ANNOUNCES INTERNATIONAL CAD CERTIFICATION

23 September 2002, Dublin, Ireland

The European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) Foundation Ltd, the global governing body of ECDL, the world's leading IT skills certification programme, announced today the launch of ECDL CAD which will be unveiled at the opening of the annual CAD CAM 2002 fair in Kortrijk, Belgium on 25 September 2002.

Developed by the ECDL Foundation, ECDL CAD provides the first independent international standard for core skills in 2 dimensional (2D) computer aided design.

"ECDL CAD is the first programme of its type to establish a global benchmark for certifying core CAD skills and knowledge," said Nina Svedberg, ECDL Foundation New Product Development Manager. "It has been designed in consultation with a working group of CAD professionals and two of the leading experts in the CAD field, Autodesk and Bentley. We anticipate strong demand for this product internationally among both students and professionals seeking an internationally recognised qualification to certify current core skills that can provide the basis towards further studies or professional development in a CAD related field."

ECDL CAD requires the candidate to demonstrate competency in using the standard available features of a 2D CAD application to create and manipulate objects or elements and to modify objects or elements. The candidate will be able to change object properties and undertake printing or plotting activity associated with the delivery of outputs. The candidate is also required to demonstrate competency in using some of the more advanced features of CAD applications software such as inserting objects from other applications.

The worldwide AEC (Architectural, Engineering and Construction) software and services market was estimated to have grown beyond $1.8 billion in 2001 with further significant growth expected throughout 2002. Autodesk and Bentley are currently the two AEC market leaders commanding well over a third of the entire market between them.

"ECDL is the world's leading IT skills certification programme and as such, we were pleased to provide specialist input into the creation of an independent global standard for core skills in CAD design. Our main objective was to help develop a product that would meet the requirements of the end user and we feel that we have achieved just that." said Nicolas Tobbackx, Belgium & Luxembourg Area Manager for Bentley.

"As one of the market leaders in the CAD field we have extensive knowledge and experience in the industry and were pleased to be consulted during the development of ECDL CAD. While we recognise that this is an independent certification, we feel that our objective input has helped make a good product into a great one." said John Macgheels, EMEA Program Manager for Autodesk.

CAD software is widely used by over 5 million people worldwide, including architects, engineers, drafters and artists to create precision drawings or technical illustrations. It helps designers and engineers create virtual models of as yet un-built environments; models that can be used to test hypotheses about the configuration of our future cities and landscape for example.

ECDL CAD has been developed to meet market demand for an independent certification at a level that covers areas of essential CAD competency and touches on some of the more advanced features. The product will be available initially in Belgium, Germany and Greece with a wider international release planned over the next 12 months.

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Notes to Editors:

About ECDL

The European Computer Driving Licence Foundation Ltd (ECDL-F) is the global governing body of ECDL. ECDL is an internationally recognised computer skills certification with over 2 million participants spanning more than 75 countries. The programme has been enjoying phenomenal worldwide recognition and growth and is known as the International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) for countries outside of Europe. The overall objective of ECDL-F is to raise the level of core knowledge about Information Technology (IT) and computer skills competency on a global basis and provide an internationally recognised certification. For more information about ECDL, please visit http://www.ecdl.com/

About Autodesk

Founded in 1982, Autodesk, Inc., is one of the world's leading design and digital media creation, management, and distribution company. The company serves a diverse portfolio of markets, including building design, geographic information systems, manufacturing, digital media, and wireless data services. By delivering tools that foster innovation and creativity, Autodesk helps customers throughout the value chain leverage digital design data to work better, faster, and smarter. For more information about the company, see www.autodesk.com.

About Bentley

Bentley Systems, Incorporated is a global provider of collaborative software solutions that enable our users to create, manage and publish architectural, engineering and construction (AEC) content. As a part of those solutions, Bentley provides professional services including implementation, integration, customisation and training. For more information, please visit www.bentley.com.