
GLOSSARY

This glossary contains an explanation of terms used in this prospectus. Some of these may not correspond to standard industry definitions.

“ActiveX”	a defined set of technologies developed by Microsoft that allows easier and better integration of applications
“algorithm”	a formula or set of steps for solving a particular problem
“application”	a functional system made up of software or hardware, or a combination of both, that performs a specific task
“ASP”	an acronym for “application service provider”, an organisation that provides online services by hosting software applications and allowing its customers to access the application through private lines or Internet
“backbone”	the part of a communication network intended and designed to carry the bulk of traffic
“bandwidth”	the data-carrying capacity of a network connection, measured in thousands of bps (kbps) or millions of bps (Mbps)
“bit”	binary digit, the smallest unit of information a computer can process, representing one of two states (usually indicated by “1” and “0”)
“bps”	bits per second
“broadband”	telecommunications that provide multiple channels of data over a single communication medium
“client/server”	a configuration in which one computer, designated as a server, sends information to a number of other computers known as clients
“e-commerce”	electronic commerce, a process of buying and selling products on the Internet
“e-banking” or “electronic banking”	allows users to perform a wide range of transactions on their linked bank accounts through the Internet
“encryption”	the process of scrambling a message so that a key, held only by authorised recipients, is needed to unscramble and read the message
“ERP” or “ERM”	abbreviation for “enterprise resource planning” or “enterprise resources management”, refers to software developed to achieve company-wide integration of business and technical information with an aim of improving business processes, including both front office and back office functions
“Excel”	a product of Microsoft

GLOSSARY

“framework”	a set of classes that embodies an abstract design for solutions to a number of related problems
“gateway”	a point of entrance to and exit from a communication network. When viewed as a physical entity, a gateway is a node that translates between two otherwise incompatible networks or network segments, and it performs code and protocol conversion to facilitate traffic between data highways of different architecture
“ICP”	an acronym for “Internet content provider”, an organisation that supplies information or content to ISPs
“Internet”	the world’s largest international network of interconnected computers that links computers together and allows data to be transferred between each computer using prescribed communication protocols
“Internet Explorer”	the web browser product of Microsoft
“Intranet”	a private network based on Internet protocols, but designed for information management within an enterprise or organisation
“ISP”	an acronym for “Internet service provider”, an organisation that provides users access to the Internet
“IT”	an acronym for “information technology”
“IT outsourcing”	relying on external computer companies to support day-to-day computer operations
“Java”	programming mini-applications for web-browsers and other programs
“kbps”	kilobits per second, which is a measurement unit of speed for digital transmission
“LAN”	an acronym for “local area network”, a network that typically interconnects devices over a geographically small area, normally confined to one building or a campus
“Linux”	a version of UNIX operating systems developed for microprocessors, designed and manufactured by Intel, one of the world’s largest manufacturers of microprocessors and other semiconductors based in Santa Clara, California, US
“MetaFrame”	a technology developed by Citrix that turns Windows NT into a multi-user operating system. Under this emulated environment, the actual applications are executed on the server
“Mbps”	megabits per second, which is a measurement unit of speed digital transmission
“Netscape Navigator”	the web browser product of Netscape

GLOSSARY

“networking”	a technique for distributing data processing functions through communications facilities (the interconnection of two or more networks)
“one-stop solution”	the provision of all aspects and levels of services to customers to complete the entire function in question without sourcing by the customers from other vendors or service providers
“operating system”	a master control program for a computer that manages the computer’s internal functions as well as the peripheral devices
“platform”	a computing environment which allows the development and execution of computer applications
“protocol”	a set of rules or standards designed to enable computers to connect with one another and to exchange information
“server”	on a local area network, a computer running administrative software that controls access to all or part of the network and its resources. A computer acting as a server makes resources available to computers acting as workstations on the network
“software”	a system or utility or application program expressed in a computer readable language
“software component” or “component”	segments of computer programmes with well-defined interfaces, which constitute building blocks for layer program development
“software localisation”	the process of converting and repackaging a software application which is based on a certain language into one based on another language, for example, converting and repackaging an application utilising the English language into one utilising the Chinese language
“system integration”	a process to integrate different computers, devices and application software packages together to provide a solution
“WAP”	an acronym for “wireless application protocol”, a specification for a set of communication protocols to standardise the way that wireless devices, such as cellular telephones and radio transceivers, can be used for Internet access, including browsing the web, sending and receiving e-mail and chatting in newsgroup discussion
“Web”	the World Wide Web, an information service on the Internet which can display graphics intermingled with text, play audio and show video clips
“Windows Terminal Server”	a terminal especially designed to run Windows applications and is connected to a Windows NT server through a network. All processing and data storage is handled by the server