More Transparency for Global Supply Networks: New Community Platform Launched!*

Based on global standards from GS1, "fTRACE transparency solution" allows all players from industry and trade to assume social and environmental responsibility for their supply networks and to make their commitment to sustainability verifiable.

Cologne, 1 March 2022. Ambitious sustainability goals and not least Germany's Supply Chain Sourcing Obligations Act (Lieferkettensorgfaltspflichtengesetz, LkSG), which will come into force in January 2023, require transparent supply networks. In the first step, all companies based in Germany with at least 3,000 employees fall under the legally binding provisions of the LkSG. Indirectly, however, the law affects all supply network participants due to the obligation to provide information.

fTRACE transparency now offers a new, cloud-based solution that supports companies in meeting both the legal and individual requirements for transparent supply networks. The full-service concept lets users share transparency data with partner companies as part of a standardized and decentralized approach and is suitable for all supply chain participants – regardless of their industry affiliation (FMCG, fashion, healthcare), company size, and IT maturity level.

In pilots with Edeka and Lidl, among others, the respective requirements are jointly defined and tested with up to eleven products in a proof of concept. The first step of implementation will cover the product categories coffee, dairy, and frozen foods. The pilot participants hope not only to gain reliable knowledge about any risks in their supply networks, but also to use the transparency to confirm their product promise with regard to formulated sustainability criteria.

With fTRACE transparency, companies are thus able to answer individual questions about the transparency of their supply network at any time. The entire data transfer takes place efficiently via the platform and offers interfaces to and from own ERP systems as well as to certification databases for optimized data integrity. fTRACE thus fulfills numerous requirements from the LkSG, such as the introduction of data-based preventive measures, due diligence requirements for all upstream stages, data collection for risk management, and reporting and documentation. Users receive actionable information on sustainability and quality assurance within the supply chain and can thus communicate credibly with authorities, customers, and other stakeholders.

Through integrated rights management, data sovereignty always remains with the companies entering the data – with consistent transparency from the producer to the finished product. The standardization of questionnaires in all product categories also significantly reduces the effort required within the global supply network.

For Thomas Fell, head of GS1 Germany, one thing is certain: "No company can fulfill the requirements of the LkSG alone. This requires standards and collaborative platforms." That is why fTRACE, a subsidiary of GS1 Germany, offers a central instrument for generating efficiency and transparency in terms of sustainability along global supply networks. Over many years, the company has successfully established the neutral, cloud-based platform fTRACE traceability solution for batch-accurate traceability of products in close coordination with industry and trade. With the new,

comprehensive product fTRACE transparency, this traceability solution has been extended to include the company, product, and ingredient level.

"We continuously take on board feedback from our customers and have expanded the existing traceability solution to include further application scenarios. With the new product, companies can now efficiently query, visualize, and analyze data relevant for sustainability and quality management in a structured way," says Mark Zeller, COO of fTRACE. He adds: "This closes the circle of traceability, transparency, and responsibility and more than meets the requirements for sustainability in companies."

fTRACE – the global language of transparent supply chains

fTRACE GmbH is a wholly owned subsidiary of GS1 Germany GmbH. With fTRACE, companies can implement transparency and traceability for their supply networks. The system is based on global GS1 standards – enabling all participants in the supply chain to exchange information efficiently and securely within delivery networks. As a neutral solution, fTRACE strengthens the trust of all supply network participants.

www.ftrace.com

GS1 Germany – it all started with a simple beep

In 1974, the first barcode was scanned in a supermarket. This was the beginning of automated checkout – and the start of the GS1 success story. The machine-readable GS1 barcode and the included GTIN are now the universal standard in the global exchange of goods and are scanned six billion times a day on products. GS1 standards are the global language for efficient and secure business processes, valid across company boundaries and continents. As part of a worldwide network, we work with our customers and partners to develop market-driven, forward-looking solutions that directly impact their business success. Today, two million companies from over 20 industries worldwide use this language to uniquely identify products, locations, and assets, to capture relevant data, and to share it with business partners in value networks.

GS1 – The Global Language of Business.
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* Translation of the German press release of fTRACE – please refer to the German original version:
https://web.ftrace.com/newsroom/ftrace-transparency-launch