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Survey Reveals That B2B Companies Are Turning to Pricing Professionals and Enterprise Software to Increase Profitability

Professional Pricing Society (PPS) and Zilliant announce results of First Annual Global Pricing Benchmark Survey

Atlanta, GA - January 23, 2008 – In B2B businesses around the globe, pricing practices are becoming a larger and more influential part of improving profitability, according to the first Annual Global B2B Pricing Benchmark Survey. Conducted by the Professional Pricing Society, the world’s largest association of pricing professionals, and Zilliant, the leading provider of price optimization and management software for B2B industries, the survey reveals trends in pricing practices and capabilities across industries and around the world. More than 500 pricing professionals participated in the survey.

“The 2007 Global B2B Pricing Benchmark Survey confirms several trends we’ve observed over the last few years – namely, that pricing groups have become larger and more influential, have taken on more strategic responsibility, and as a result are investing in better processes, tools and capabilities,” said Eric Mitchell, president of the Professional Pricing Society.

The survey results establish a cross-industry benchmark on how B2B organizations approach pricing, the effectiveness of common processes and tools, and what initiatives drive improvement. The survey revealed the following:

1. Pricing and profitability go hand-in-hand: Most respondents (72 percent) cited “improved profits/margins” as the principal driver of their pricing strategy, and a

correspondingly high 82 percent cited a “high” or “very high” level of executive attention to the pricing function.

2. Simple tools and approaches are no longer up to the task: While the vast majority of companies have implemented ERP, SCM or other systems to automate other core functions, 70 percent of respondents still use spreadsheets as their primary tool for managing pricing. Not surprisingly these companies reported the lowest overall level of pricing effectiveness, with the majority using either “meet competition” or “cost-plus” as their primary method for setting and negotiating prices.
3. Improvement initiatives are widespread: Very few respondents (6 percent) describe their current pricing processes and tools as “very effective,” explaining why 73 percent have active price improvement initiatives under way and almost half (48 percent) are currently considering, evaluating, or deploying price management software.
4. Better decision-making is the goal: The majority of companies surveyed (72 percent) see “better decision making” as the primary benefit of price management software – not “process efficiency gains” (34 percent).

“Price is one of the most effective levers for immediately improving profitability,” said Andy Dvorocsik, vice president of Pricing Excellence at Zilliant. “Our survey confirms that the ever-increasing focus on the pricing discipline is driving widespread adoption of sophisticated pricing software tools like price optimization to take full advantage of the opportunity to maximize margins.”

For more information about the survey and its results, please join the Professional Pricing Society and Zilliant for a webinar, “Challenges, Practices, and Trends in B2B Pricing: Results of PPS/Zilliant Global B2B Pricing Benchmark Survey”, on January 24, 2008 at 12:00PM EST. To register, please visit www.pricingsociety.com/webinars.

About Professional Pricing Society

Founded in 1984, the Professional Pricing Society serves thousands of members, representing leading industries all over the world. The Society’s mission is to nurture a growing community of professionals committed to disseminating pricing expertise throughout the business world. PPS produces three annual conferences in Europe and

North America and offers certification with its Certified Pricing Professional (CPP) program. Publications distributed to members include an eight-page monthly newsletter and a 36-page quarterly journal. Further, the PPS website (www.pricingsociety.com) is a central resource for state-of-the-art pricing knowledge and hosts a job site where professionals can post or review new opportunities in the industry. For more information visit www.pricingsociety.com.

About Zilliant

Zilliant is the leading provider of price optimization and price management applications for manufacturing, distribution, high-tech, and industrial service companies. Zilliant Precision Pricing Suite (ZPPS) uses existing transactional data to improve decisions across all facets of price analysis, setting and execution. ZPPS applications combine powerful price segmentation and optimization science with easy-to-use business applications to help companies achieve the best pricing possible on every deal, increasing profits by tens of millions of dollars. Headquartered in Austin, Texas, Zilliant is a privately held company. Investors include Austin Ventures, Cardinal Ventures, JP Morgan Partners, SMH Capital and Trellis Partners. For more information contact Zilliant at 877.893.1085 or visit www.zilliant.com.

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