

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **International Blindness Charity selects Proactis from Sapphire**

**Sapphire to enable global procure-to-pay capabilities at leading sight saving charity**

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**LONDON, UK – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2008.** Sapphire Systems today announced that it is to supply and implement a 150 user Proactis Spend Control solution at Sightsavers International.

Sightsavers works with partners in 33 countries to help combat blindness and restore sight through specialist treatment and eye care. They also support people who are irreversibly blind by providing education, counselling and training.

Carole Webb, Procurement Officer, at Sightsavers said: "We needed a solution that would strengthen the effectiveness of Sightsavers' global procurement activities, reduce unnecessary administration time, eradicate duplication of effort and improve management information. There was also a real need to replace the current paper-based system as there was no central record for activities carried out by the various departments at our Head Office in Haywards Heath, let alone our overseas offices." Carole added "We are a Procurement Team of 3 people and we have our work cut out with over 1000 products on the standard list of equipment that is procured and supplied to offices and partners around the world. The products vary greatly - from pharmaceuticals to vehicles and ophthalmic equipment to textbooks."

The Project Team conducted a formal tender process outlining Sightsavers' requirements - which included integration with their existing SunSystems financial accounting solution. Carole explained: "Sightsavers chose Proactis from Sapphire as it provides the functionality that our rigorous procurement procedures demand. Sapphire supports our SunSystems application, and so the fact that Sapphire can support both solutions was a plus point. What's more, the implementation of Proactis will provide us with a good opportunity to upgrade to the latest version of SunSystems too."

Nick Williams, Sightsavers' Account Manager at Sapphire, outlined three significant benefits that the organisation will see post-implementation. He said "A major consideration for Sightsavers is the low bandwidth internet connections available in many of the countries in which the organisation operates. Proactis facilitates worldwide use as users don't need to remotely login to a UK server-based system." He continued, "The Stores Module in Proactis will also prove a real benefit to Sightsavers as it will enable them to take advantage of economies of scale with functionality to efficiently manage storage, allocation of stock and deployment of their resources". Nick concluded, "Finally, as a web based solution that eliminates the need for paper-based reporting, Proactis offers a carbon neutral solution which is a real plus point for an environmentally-aware international organisation such as Sightsavers."

Of Sapphire, Carole said: "The Sapphire team was very helpful: they demonstrated the benefits of Proactis with workshops, gave us the ability to discuss our requirements in detail and subsequently demonstrated the solution in action with our own items and suppliers."

Looking ahead, Carole says: "We look forward to working together with Sapphire to achieve a successful implementation. When Proactis is implemented we'll receive support for the full procure-to-pay process - from sourcing to order placement and monitoring; as well as providing a wide range of management reporting options."

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**About Sapphire Systems plc**

Sapphire is the world's leading provider of Infor FMS SunSystems, an SAP Gold partner and a Premier Partner for PROACTIS Spend Control Solutions. Since 1986, Sapphire have offered their customers wide-ranging practical expertise in selecting and implementing advanced financial accounting and business management solutions and today provides software, services and support for hundreds of customers worldwide from their offices in London and Manchester. Sapphire is a founder member of the British Application Software Developers Association and is featured in the Deloitte & Touche Fast 500 Technology 2006 rankings.  
[www.sapphiresystems.com](http://www.sapphiresystems.com)

**About Sightsavers International**

Sightsavers International is a registered UK charity (Registered charity numbers 207544 and SC038110) that works in more than 30 developing countries to prevent blindness, restore sight and advocate for social inclusion and equal rights for people who are blind and visually impaired. There are 45 million blind people in the world; 75% of all blindness can be prevented or cured. Since 1950, Sightsavers has restored sight to more than 5.65 million people and treated over 100 million more.  
[www.sightsavers.org](http://www.sightsavers.org)

**About Proactis**

Proactis is a specialist in Spend Control software helping organisations achieve dramatic cost savings, streamlined procurement and corporate compliance since 1996. Proactis Spend Control is an advanced eProcurement solution that moves responsibility to requesting users whilst maintaining complete budgetary and sourcing control. It incorporates purchase-to-pay, eSourcing, eCommerce and Supplier Relationship Management. Benefits include cost-pipeline visibility, source consolidation, reduction in maverick spend and major improvements to the month-end close cycle. Proactis' customer base has grown to more than 200 user organisations across diverse industry sectors, including financial services, Government and Not-for-Profit. Proactis is headquartered in the United Kingdom, and is represented throughout Europe and North America. It is listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) of the London Stock Exchange under the symbol PHD.L  
[www.proactis.com](http://www.proactis.com)

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