



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE CORPORATE VENTURE MAKES ITS FIRST DIRECT INVESTMENT IN A SILICON VALLEY STARTUP, PONTE COMMUNICATIONS

SAN FRANCISCO – Nov. 28, 2001 – Société Générale Corporate Venture today announced its investment in Ponte Communications. Société Générale Corporate Venture was established to build strong strategic relationships with Silicon Valley startups that can provide valuable technology to the bank in the areas of IT infrastructure, multi channel delivery, customer relationship management, and financial products and services.

Société Générale Corporate Venture's first direct investment goes to Ponte Communications, a Silicon Valley-based startup that provides network security control software for enterprises and managed service providers. Ponte's nsControl™ solution allows organizations to implement security policy through the centralized control of network devices, regardless of vendor.

"At a time when many venture firms are pulling back on technology investments, Société Générale believes that prospects remain strong for private companies that have innovative technology, proven management, and strong execution capabilities," said Pascal Bouillon, managing director of Société Générale Corporate Venture. "IT infrastructure is a strategic target for us, and Ponte epitomizes the kind of early-stage enterprise that Société Générale looks to support," added Richard Hababou, managing director of Société Générale Corporate Venture.

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Société Générale Corporate Venture invests in startups whose technology is strategic to the bank. According to Hababou, "As one of the largest bank in the Euro zone, it's crucial that we have sophisticated software, such as Ponte's nsControl product, to control and manage security policy across our global network."

About Société Générale

The Société Générale Group is one of the largest banks in the euro zone. The Group employs 80,000 people around the world in three key businesses:

- *Retail Banking: Société Générale serves 12 million retail customers worldwide.*
- *Asset Management & Private Banking: Société Générale ranks third in the euro zone in terms of assets under management.*
- *Corporate & Investment Banking: SG is the fourth largest bank in the euro zone based on net banking income.*

Société Générale is the only French bank to be included in the four major socially responsible investment indexes. For more information, visit www.socgen.com.

About Ponte

Founded in 1998, Ponte provides network security control software that allows enterprises and managed service providers to implement security policy through the centralized control of network devices, regardless of vendor or device type. Organizations can now mitigate risk from security vulnerabilities by using the Ponte nsControl™ solution to automate the update of their networks in response to newly identified security threats, changes in security policy, and software fixes from network device vendors. Ponte's software automates the implementation of security policy through the translation of policy to device configurations and then the deployment of configurations, firmware, and credentials, including passwords, to network devices. For more information, visit www.ponte.com.

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