



## Appliance on Microsoft BizTalk Server 2006 R2

*Covast BBot will deliver BizTalk Server 2006 R2 benefits to IT resource-challenged suppliers*

**Atlanta – September 10, 2007**— Covast, a leading provider of business-to-business (B2B) integration solutions, today announced that the Covast BBot™ is the first B2B integration appliance to be delivered utilizing Microsoft's new BizTalk Server 2006 R2. The Covast BBot automatically enables integration between the complex supply chain systems of large hubs and their smaller suppliers, customers and dealers.

Today, many suppliers are unable to deploy advanced integration technologies effectively because they lack the appropriate IT resources, such as staff and budget. Deploying BizTalk Server 2006 R2 on BBot extends Microsoft's powerful supply chain benefits to every supplier, customer or dealer regardless of their IT resource constraints.

In addition to automatic supply chain integration, BBot delivers the following supply chain benefits – courtesy of BizTalk Server 2006 R2 – to *all* trading partners:

- **Extended Core Process Management to All Suppliers and Customers:** Because it's running BizTalk Server 2006 R2, BBot delivers advanced core process management of B2B integration, EDI and RFID beyond the hub enterprise to all suppliers and customers, regardless of the extent of their current IT resources.
- **Advanced Business Process Management Capabilities:** BizTalk Server 2006 R2 provides BBot customers with end-to-end solutions for automating business processes throughout the supply chain.
- **Powerful Leverage of RFID Data:** BBot customers can realize the benefits of a truly connected enterprise through leveraging real-time business process management and intelligent RFID data.
- **Simplified Interoperability:** BizTalk Server 2006 R2's unprecedented support of 'real-world' SOA provides BBot customers with pre-integrated Microsoft .NET Framework technologies to connect applications, platforms and people.

"Organizations of all sizes need simpler and more cost-effective ways to connect to partners within their supply chain. Covast's BBot appliance and Microsoft BizTalk Server 2006 R2 simplify the configuration and lower the cost of management of those connections," said Steven Martin, director of the Connected Systems Division at Microsoft Corp.

As an appliance of pre-configured hardware and software, BBot solves a fundamental problem in supply chain integration by automatically integrating the complex supply chain systems of large hubs with the less complex systems of their smaller suppliers, customers and dealers. To work, a hub publishes a profile of its different supply chain systems and processes to a central registry. Organizations then simply plug a BBot into their LAN with Internet connection and the appliance automatically configures itself to the hub profile. Using Microsoft Office software, BBot instantly bridges supply chain systems, allowing real-time integration between hubs and their suppliers, customers and dealers.

Daan Scheer, CEO of Covast, comments: "Because it's built using BizTalk Server 2006 R2, BBot is able to provide the most advanced B2B integration capabilities to each and every organization in the supply chain. We believe BBot will fundamentally change the way today's supply chains conduct business."

For more information on Covast and its BBot solution, please visit [www.covast.com/bbot](http://www.covast.com/bbot).

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