



Press Release

Microsoft - Financial Technologies Group join hands to support Next-Generation Financial Services Solutions over the Cloud

The partnership will pioneer creation of cloud based financial markets to enable financial inclusion in India

Mumbai, January 22, 2011: Mumbai-based **Financial Technologies Group (FT Group)** has joined hands with software giant **Microsoft Corporation** to support next-generation financial services solutions over cloud architecture. With this partnership, Microsoft and Financial Technologies Group will pioneer the creation of 'Financial markets over cloud – A Map to Financial Inclusion'.

The partnership was announced here at the **Future of Financial Markets (FOFM™) 2011 Leadership Summit**, the third annual flagship event of the FT Group, held at **The Renaissance Mumbai Convention Centre, Powai, Mumbai**. Themed *'Empowering Lives. Transforming Economies.'* the Summit, which is recognized as the **'Davos of Global Financial Markets'**, is designed to provide thought-leaders a platform to deliberate upon the rising significance and role of Greenfield exchanges in facilitating global trade and redesigning the architecture of the Future of Financial Markets.

The FT Group will leverage Microsoft's cloud technologies to offer ODIN and other applications on the cloud; on a pay-as-you-go model. Financial Technologies will leverage Windows Azure and SQL Azure to enable this. Windows Azure (www.microsoft.com/azure) is Microsoft's operating system for the cloud, which offers a simple, reliable, and powerful platform for developing, hosting and delivery cloud-based software in a pay-for-use business model. SQL Azure is the world's first next-generation cloud database that allows developers to build out business applications on the cloud that require relational database capability.

What is Cloud Computing?
Cloud Computing is an Internet-based IT delivery model, which in its simplest form allows users to access software from the Internet, without the need to download or install it on a local PC or server. Applications on the cloud are accessible through the browser and can be rented or 'subscribed' on a metered basis, as against the traditional software delivery model of licensing the software for use.

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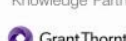
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All the exchanges of the Financial Technologies Group currently run on the Microsoft SQL Server. In fact, FTIL is the only vendor whose entire exchange solutions work on Microsoft's platform. The advantage of the cloud computing model helps in reducing cost barriers to financial markets and also helps drive financial inclusion in the global economy, particularly the fast-growing economies from Asia to Africa. "This is a step ahead of existing offerings in the market as virtual machines are being assigned as needed and charged purely on usage taking away all capacity planning challenges," said **Mr. Miten Mehta, Director, FT Group**.

As the Technology Partner, the Summit has also joined hands with **Microsoft India**, a key IT partner to the Indian government supporting and fueling the growth of local IT Industry. "Indian economy is poised for strong growth and a robust financial ecosystem is crucial for ensuring overall progress. The new economic opportunity requires for us to find quick road-maps in key areas like inclusive growth, microfinance, financial operational excellence, etc. With some of the best minds converging in India, **FOFM™ 2011** presents a unique opportunity to debate and find these answers to speed up the progress," said **Mr. Ravi Venkatesan, Chairman, Microsoft India**.

As a matter of fact, the FT Group believes this is the perfect platform to have launched commenced this partnership as the Summit focuses on Greenfield Financial Exchanges, aided and supported by the ecosystems, have the potential to facilitate global trade and change the face of global business by positively influencing the future of global financial markets, according to **Mr. Jignesh Shah, Chairman & Group CEO, FT Group**.

"Infrastructure is the key enabler for growth. Technology-centric financial exchanges are instrumental in changing the contours of 'exchange trading' in emerging, but fast-growing, economies from Asia to Africa and have the impending ability to transform economies and empower lives. Financial markets, especially regulated exchanges, are envisaged to play a critical role in developing fast-growing economies," **Mr. Shah** added.

The Summit has been structured to stimulate dialogue among financial market participants on two significant aspects of the financial markets. The **Exchange Day** on January 21 is centered on the rising opportunities in financial markets from Singapore to Dubai as well as from India to Mauritius and Bahrain. The **Ecosystem Day** on January 22 will remain focused on forward and backward links, such as warehousing and collateral management, technology, payment gateway, info-vending and spot market, which inter-connects markets with participants.

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The Summit is expected to include participation from over 300 global financial market leaders, including over 75 eminent speakers from 10 countries, including US, UK, India, Singapore, Bahrain, Botswana and Mauritius.

With a clear shift of power from developed to emerging countries and a new growth model that is more inclusive, the Summit is set to emerge as the hub to be credited for the genesis of many revolutionary innovations in the new world economic order.

Having engaged a stream of extremely valuable and recognized partners who are domain experts in their respective industries and congregating the best minds from the financial markets space of emerging economies, the Summit is confident of stimulating a dialogue and positively influencing the future of global financial markets and creating a new world economic order.

About Financial Technologies Group:

Financial Technologies Group is the global leader in creating and operating technology-centric, next generation financial markets that are transparent, efficient and liquid across multi-asset classes, including equities, commodities, currency and bonds.

The Group's highly robust and scalable exchange and trading technology platform (Intellectual Property), coupled with deep domain expertise, gives it a decisive edge in driving mass disruptive innovation at a speed and cost of execution that are unmatched in the financial markets industry. This allows the Group to uniquely harness opportunities to create electronic, organized and regulated financial markets for "new asset classes" and "new investor classes" that are either under-served or economically unviable to be served by traditional companies.

The markets of Financial Technologies Group transform the lives of people by democratizing global trade, economy and growth and propagating the benefits of "price transparency," "risk hedging," and "structured public finance" to the masses. This results in driving inclusive and equitable growth, thereby unlocking exponential value from the middle and bottom of the socio-economic pyramid.

About Microsoft India:

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal and business computing. The company offers a wide range of products and services designed to empower people through great software - any time, any place and on any device. Microsoft Corporation (India) Private Ltd is a subsidiary of Microsoft Corporation, USA. It has had a presence in India since 1990 and currently has offices in 13 cities - Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi and Pune.

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Safe Harbour Statement:

Certain statements made in this release with reference to future operations and performance of Financial Technologies Group, its subsidiaries and other group companies are forward-looking statements, involving risks and uncertainties. Certain factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those in such forward-looking statements. The company does not undertake responsibility to update any forward-looking statement that may be made from time to time by or on behalf of the company.

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