

Helveta joins world leaders at UN Climate Change Conference 2009

7th to 18th December - Copenhagen, Denmark

Oxford, United Kingdom, 23rd November, 2009: Helveta Ltd, the leading provider of asset management and supply chain monitoring technology for the forest sector, has announced that it will be showcasing its technologies for the monitoring of forest status and inventory at the much anticipated 2009 Copenhagen Climate Change Conference.

Helveta will be appearing at “Forest Day 3”, an event organised by the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) to coincide with the Climate Change Conference. Forest Day 3 takes place at the Radisson SAS Falconer Hotel in Copenhagen on Sunday, 13th December. Company representatives will also be panellists at a learning event on ‘measuring and monitoring, baselines and leakage’, discussing how to implement a carbon finance mechanism.

Deforestation is a substantial driver of climate change. Helveta’s CI World™ technology supports the implementation of forest-related legislation and policy initiatives originating in the US and EU that play a pivotal role across Africa, SE Asia and the Amazon basin in mitigating the rate of deforestation by helping combat illegal logging. CI World is used to record detailed forest inventories, land usage and bio-diversity indicators by communities and other forest stakeholders to build local capacity in support of forest carbon credit mechanisms planned for the future. CI World enables Helveta’s commercial customers and communities to monitor forest inventories and to trace timber assets as they move along the timber supply chain, providing impact assessment and legality verification. Forest inventories are monitored using Helveta’s mobile device-based software application – CI Mobile™ - and barcode or RFID reader technologies, which in turn link into Helveta’s web-based suite of tools and reports – CI World.

Helveta’s CI Earth™ is a ground-based mapping application that can be used as part of CI World to gather information and provide sub-canopy verification of the continued existence of forest assets on the ground as part of any future carbon sequestration monitoring.

Carbon reduction within the forestry sector is set to be an important theme at this year's Climate Change Conference, following a report last year that proposed plans to reduce carbon emissions by paying owners and inhabitants of the world's rainforests to save and maintain the trees. However, any such scheme would need to be supported by measures to verify the legality of timber, since illegal logging costs the Governments of timber-producing states between 10 and 15 billion Euros a year in the form of theft, non-collection of forest taxes and depressed timber prices. Illegal logging also increases the rate of deforestation, which is the second biggest driver of climate change, accounting for 18 – 25% of greenhouse gases released globally.

During the Climate Change Conference, Helveta will also participate in a learning event entitled 'How to Implement a Carbon Finance Mechanism: The Monitoring of Forest Assets'. This event will consider how best to implement the measurement and monitoring, establishment of baselines, and prevention of leakage, that will underpin any carbon financing mechanism for forest conservation. This will include, in particular, consideration of the balance to be reached between the use of aerial, remote sensing technologies and sub-canopy verification systems in the monitoring of forest assets on the ground.

Patrick Newton, CEO of Helveta comments; "We are pleased to be part of the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in a year when the eyes of the world will be on the Climate Change process more than ever before. It gives us an important opportunity to raise awareness of the work Helveta is doing with civil society and the private sector across the world to map and protect forest assets. "

About Helveta

Helveta was incorporated in 2004 and is the developer of the CI World™ software platform. CI World is a unique technology providing fully auditable traceability and chain of custody control for extended supply chains in the Timber and Food production sectors. CI World and its components – TracElite™ and CI Earth™ - have won a number of awards as innovative technologies for the timber sector. Helveta is privately held.

www.helveta.com

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