



## **Hitachi Launches bolero.net based product**

### **Global electronics giant to launch software**

29 March 2001

Hitachi Ltd, one of the world's leading electronics companies, today announced that it had signed a partnership agreement with bolero.net, the emerging standard for international trade.

Having signed up to bolero.net in February, Hitachi is already committed to rolling the system out throughout its worldwide operations. In addition, following a \$2 million development programme which lasted over a year, Hitachi has developed a software package aimed at large corporate users - "Hitachi Gateway TF21" - which allows connectivity to the Bolero System. Initially available in Japan, the software is due to be launched in the second quarter of this year.

According to Mr Hirohisa Ohnishi, General Manager of Hitachi's Distribution and Service Systems, "We believe that bolero.net is unique in allowing different vertical markets such as the automobile and steel industries to link into the same basic e-business infrastructure - a major step forward in the development of international b2b e-commerce.

"Furthermore, through its "boleroXML" programme, bolero.net is for the first time introducing validated message standards into international trade, which will enable true straight-through processing.

As a result, Hitachi is committed to providing a full scale business solution based on the Bolero System."

Customers buying into Hitachi's TF21 product will benefit from a dedicated consulting and systems integration service that encompasses everything from connection to bolero.net to integration with a user's existing systems. A trial site is already available where customers can assess the product.

According to bolero.net commercial director, Peter Scott, "The majority of the world's leading international banks and container shipping companies are already on-board, and they are increasingly being joined by major multinationals such as Hitachi."

"When one of the world's electronic giants not only signs up to bolero.net as a customer, but invests in the development of a bolero.net product, it speaks volumes about the level of acceptance we are getting as an international trade standard."

### **About Hitachi**

Hitachi, Ltd., headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, is one of the world's leading global electronics companies, with fiscal 1999 (ended March 31, 2000) consolidated sales of 8,001 billion yen (\$75.5 billion\*). The company manufactures and markets a wide range of products including computers, semiconductors, consumer products and power and industrial equipment. For more information on Hitachi, Ltd., please visit Hitachi's Web site at <http://www.hitachi.co.jp/>

# Bolero

\* At an exchange rate of 106 yen to the dollar.