

## **DCTA technology ownership transferred to Inexto, an affiliate of Impala Group**

1<sup>st</sup> June 2016 – The Digital Coding & Tracking Association (DCTA) and its member companies – British American Tobacco, Imperial Tobacco Limited, Japan Tobacco International and Philip Morris International – have signed and completed an agreement by which Inexto, an affiliate of the French Group Impala, has acquired the DCTA’s track & trace and product authentication technology.

Because developing technologies is not part of the core business of the DCTA member companies, the DCTA decided to divest it. The technology was developed by the DCTA and DCTA member companies to further secure the legitimate supply chain of their products and comply with tracking and tracing requirements under their agreements with the European Union and governments in the EU.

A DCTA spokesperson said: “The DCTA is proud of the cutting edge track and trace and authentication solution we developed which is proven to work on high speed manufacturing lines and to be effective for law enforcement purposes. We believe that a specialised and independent technology company is now best placed to further develop this technology to ensure it remains state-of-the-art and fit for purpose.”

This divestment will not impact existing projects, cooperation agreements between the DCTA, its members and third parties.

The DCTA will continue to advocate for the use of open standards in the fields of track & trace and product authentication. The DCTA remains open to working with any technology to comply with regulatory requirements, provided that their solutions are effective, cost efficient, based on open standards and that they will work with existing tobacco manufacturing and distribution infrastructures.

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