

## **PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

7<sup>th</sup> June 2010

### **DRIVING INNOVATION – THE FIRST MALTESE SPEECH SYNTHESISER BY CRIMSONWING**

Crimsonwing's most recent project driving innovation is the development of a speech synthesiser for the Maltese language – a first of its kind. The speech synthesiser will enable computers to produce and process spoken Maltese, which will allow a more natural interaction between the speaker and the computer, recognising keyboard and verbal input and being able to transform text into audio speech format.

This project was initiated by the Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility, and is co-financed via an 85% grant by the European Regional Development Fund and 15% by the Maltese government. Crimsonwing won the tender for this project in February 2010 and Carmel Gafa, Head of Technology, said "We are proud to have won the tender for this challenging and interesting project. The synthesiser will make a significant difference to many Maltese speaking people who need accessible electronic media, for example partially sighted, blind, illiterate, injured and physically disabled people. It is also an honour to work with leading experts in this field, like Prof. Paul Micallef and Prof. Ray Fabri and we are making excellent progress on the project."

The technology for speech recognition engines exists already but not for the Maltese language. Therefore, people requiring speech-enabled technology have had to rely on alternative languages. One of the challenges with this project is the Maltese language itself, as pronunciation and grammar rules are complex.

Being EU funded, the project falls under the EU's cohesion policy 2007-2013 "Investing In Competitiveness For A Better Quality Of Life".



Operational Programme I – Cohesion Policy 2007-2013  
*Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life*  
Project part-financed by the European Union  
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)  
Co-financing rate: 85% EU Funds; 15% National Funds



**ABOUT CRIMSONWING**

Crimsonwing is an international IT solutions provider developing and implementing leading-edge solutions to help European companies to gain a competitive advantage. Crimsonwing offers flexible, cost-effective and proven industry solutions for ERP, eCommerce and custom development, and is a growing, profitable and publicly listed company, employing 230 people.

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**MORE INFORMATION FOLLOWS:**

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