S21SEC CHOSEN BY THE EUROPEAN UNION TO DEVELOP CYBERSECURITY

Maia, 7 July 2016 – S21sec, a leading company specialised in cybersecurity and majority owned by Sonae IM, has announced it will be an active participant in the development of Europe's future information safety guidelines, as a member of the group that will work with the European Commission in order to improve cybersecurity policies in the European territory.

The European Commission announced the public-private partnership launched with the European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO), an organization that gathers cybersecurity private companies of which S21sec is a founding member.

Studies led by the European Commission reveal that about 80% of European companies experienced at least one cybersecurity incident in the past year, as the number of incidents increased about 38% in 2015. *"These situations are prejudicial to European companies, regardless of their size or activity, and constitute a severe threat to undermine trust in the digital economy. By participating in this project we hope to contribute effectively to build an European cybersecurity market that is solid, harmonized and competitive in order to be able to serve all sectors", as declared by* Xavier Mitxelena, CEO of S21sec.

To tackle this situation, the European Commission intends to strengthen cooperation across borders and between all players and sectors, so as to prevent cybersecurity risks for citizens, companies and state administrations alike. For this purpose, a new initiative will trigger an investment of about 450 million euros in this partnership through the Horizon 2020 programme. Together with the participation of the private sector, the investment is expected to rise to 1.800 billion euros by 2020.

Andrus Ansip, vice-president of the European Commission and European commissioner for the Digital Single Market, declared: "Without trust and security, there can be no Digital Single Market. Europe has to be ready to tackle cyber-threats that are increasingly sophisticated and do not recognise borders. We are proposing concrete measures to strengthen Europe's resilience against such attacks and secure the capacity needed for building and expanding our digital economy."

The action plan announced is part of the Digital Single Market programme launched in 2015 by the EU and the EU Cybersecurity Strategy published in 2013. This project will include members from national, regional and local public administrations, research centres and academia from different countries, as well as from the countries associated to the Horizon 2020 programme.





Xabier Mitxelena Ruiz, CEO of S21Sec (centre) and other members of the European Commission.

Link video: http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?ref=I124007

About Sonae IM

Sonae IM is a multinational tech company, with a clear objective to build and manage a portfolio of innovating companies. Sonae IM invests in tech-based companies that are focused on telecommunications and retail. Currently present in 13 countries, Sonae IM is already leader in some relevant markets, having companies under its wing that are already worldwide references.
For more information, visit http://www.sonaeim.com/.

About S21Sec

S21sec, a leading company specialised in cybersecurity, was founded in 2000 and has since relied on a team of more than 200 certified experts. Research and development has long been a priority in S21sec strategy, ever since its establishment. This mind-set led to the creation of Europe's first research, development and innovation centre specialised in the field of cybersecurity. S21sec works with nearly 90% financial entities and with 26 large companies listed in the IBEX 35. With offices in the UK, Spain, Portugal and in Mexico, S21sec offers comprehensive cybersecurity solutions around the world, 24 hours a day.
For more information, visit www.s21sec.com

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