

Press Release

MKS Introduces AlertCentre 2.0

Agentless Availability Monitoring Solution Adds Powerful Application Wizards

Fairfax, VA, November 25, 2002 – MKS Inc. (MKS) ([TSE:MKX](#)) announced today MKS AlertCentre™ 2.0, the latest version of its advanced, agentless monitoring solution for Windows. The release includes significant enhancements including monitoring wizards for Microsoft IIS, SQL Server, and Exchange that dramatically reduce the effort necessary to set up comprehensive management of essential applications and their infrastructures. AlertCentre 2.0 will enable customers to improve availability of critical resources such as websites, databases, and e-mail servers while substantially reducing system management costs.

MKS AlertCentre 2.0 is a cost-effective availability management solution for several reasons. First, it permits the monitoring of unlimited devices and applications from each licensed monitoring station. In addition, there are no limits on the number of users that can access AlertCentre either locally or remotely. Most importantly, its agentless architecture means there is no software to deploy to monitored devices, which leads to major savings in both deployment costs and ongoing administration costs.

"We produce live content over the Web, which our members around the world depend on so our information infrastructure has to be highly available and reliable," said Rod Bergan, Chairman of Men of Vision. "AlertCentre enables us to ensure the high availability we need and to do it affordably, because it leverages the expertise of our systems people and makes them more productive."

New features in MKS AlertCentre 2.0 include:

- **Application Monitoring Wizards:** New application wizards for Microsoft Exchange Server, Microsoft Internet Information Server (IIS), and Microsoft SQL Server make it a breeze to set up sophisticated, comprehensive monitoring for these ubiquitous applications. These mission-critical applications depend on diverse IT resources from network connectivity to hardware plus a broad range of software services. Each wizard automatically discovers infrastructure and application elements for any server that supports one or more of these popular applications and then it automatically generates the full range of system and application monitors necessary to comprehensively manage them for availability and performance.
- **Status of Operations Console:** All new, web-based, at-a-glance status of operations console with point and click drill down, and toolbar and status frames puts availability management at your fingertips. AlertCentre 2.0 carries this highly functional, easy-to-use interface theme throughout.
- **New Monitor Types:** for SNMP devices, UDP ports, incoming and outgoing e-mail services, printers/copiers, files, directories, machine shares, SSL certificates, newsgroups, web site link integrity, and database queries. These new monitor types expand the depth of network and application monitoring.
- **New Action Functionality:** ability to: 1) more fully control when and how actions can be triggered; 2) run pre and post action commands or programs; 3) start, stop and re-start services; 4) full functionality SNMP Trap and SNMP Set to enable seamless integration with other network and systems management products.
- **Reports:** Uptime Reports, Status of Operations Reports, Monitor Log Reports, and Configuration Reports. These pre-defined reports allow you to measure availability of all monitored networks, systems and applications.

"MKS AlertCentre provides IT managers with a powerful tool to cost effectively improve availability and performance of essential systems and applications," said Pat Higbie, EVP, MKS Inc. "The new application monitoring wizards make existing IT staff savvier in implementing successful availability monitoring solutions, because they automatically discover application infrastructure and they automatically generate monitors to ensure high availability of virtual resources such as web sites that depend on more infrastructure than meets the eye."

Pricing and Availability

MKS AlertCentre 2.0 is available immediately for a suggested retail price of US \$4,999. You can purchase this product directly from MKS <http://www.mksoftware.com/sales>, via the MKS Web Store at <http://webstore.mks.com/webstore/>, or from any software reseller and is available in North America through distribution at Ingram Micro and internationally through authorized partners.

Customers with a current PCS contract may request their free upgrades at <http://www.mkssoftware.com/support/upgrades.asp>. Customers with old versions who wish to update to version 2.0 may contact MKS directly at 1-800-637-8034, 1-703-803-3343, in the UK at +44 1483 733922 or through your local reseller. Additional product information is available at <http://www.alertcentre.com/>.

About MKS

MKS Inc. ("MKS") ([TSE:MKX](http://www.mks.com)) provides award-winning enterprise software configuration management (SCM) and interoperability software solutions enabling development teams at Fortune 1000 companies such as Park Place Entertainment, Continental Teves, Federated Insurance Companies and Northrop Grumman to analyze, build and deploy software systems quickly and reliably. The company's family of SCM products offers advanced technology with robust workflow, code management, and impact analysis capabilities. Under its widely known MKS Toolkit brand, MKS provides UNIX-Windows co-existence, and system administration that significantly cut development and administrative costs and reduce time to market while enabling enhanced performance. Founded in 1984 with over 10,000 customers worldwide, MKS has built its brand on the foundation of advanced technology, superior quality and extraordinary customer service. More information about MKS can be found at <http://www.mks.com>, or by calling 1-800-265-2797 (US & Canada), +49-711-351775-0 (Germany), and +44-1483-733900 (United Kingdom).

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