

MEDIA RELEASE – 26 November 2008

AFP RAID ON SYDNEY CBD INTERNET CAFÉ RESULTS IN \$82,000 FINE AND FORFEITURE OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

Internet Café's servers held hundreds of thousands of unauthorised movie and music titles

On 25 November at Downing Centre Local Court, Sydney, Interville Technology Pty Ltd pleaded guilty to 40 charges of copyright infringement. Magistrate McIntosh imposed a fine totaling \$82,000 on the company plus court costs and ordered that the computer terminals and servers seized during the raid were to be forfeited.

The charges arose from an 18 December 2007 raid by the Australian Federal Police on the Interville Technology Internet café, 391 Pitt Street, in Sydney's CBD. The raid followed a long-term investigation into the café's operations by the **Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (AFACT)** and **Music Industry Piracy Investigations (MIPI)** which confirmed that the café was charging hourly fees for customers to view infringing movies and music and selling storage devices with capacities of up to 60GBs (capable of storing over 40 movies and hundreds of music files) which customers were using to copy infringing music, movies and TV shows.

The internet café was operating 60 computer terminals and three servers which contained a total of 8 terrabytes storage which contained hundreds of thousands of infringing movie, TV and music titles. Seized movie titles included titles not yet released in Australian cinemas including "American Gangster", "National Treasure Book of Secrets" while numerous music tracks from over 150 well-known artists such as 50 Cent, Alicia Keys and Justin Timberlake.

"The conviction and sentencing marks the successful conclusion of excellent work by the Australian Federal Police," said Neil Gane, **AFACT** Director of Operations at the conclusion of the case. "It is satisfying to see sentences handed down which properly reflect the damage operations like this do to rights owners and the 50,000 Australians working in the film and TV industries. The sentences will send a clear message to all Internet café owners engaged in commercial scale copyright infringement – you will be caught and you risk severe penalties."

Sabiene Heindl, General Manager **MIPI** said: "This is a fantastic result for a significant case in the fight against music piracy. For the first time, an Internet café has been targeted and justly reprimanded for its blatant facilitation of widespread copyright infringement for commercial gain."

AFACT Contacts:

For interviews with Neil Gane, AFACT, contact:

Dave Harding: (02) 9997 8011
After hours: 0431 858 502

info@afact.com.au
www.afact.com.au

MIPI Contacts:

For interviews with Sabiene Heindl, MIPI, contact:

Samantha Hales: (02) 8569 1177
After hours: 0412 969 653

mipi@mipi.com.au
www.mipi.com.au

About AFACT

AFACT acts on behalf of the 50,000 Australians directly impacted by copyright theft including independent cinemas, video rental stores and film and television producers across the country. AFACT works closely with industry, government, police and educational institutions to address copyright theft, and to protect the interests of the film and television industry.

In the 12 month period from October 2007 to October 2008, AFACT assisted state and federal police on enforcement actions involving film piracy which resulted in the seizure of 969,514 pirated DVDs and 761 burners capable of producing over 19 million pirated DVDs a year with a potential street value of over \$95 million.

AFACT operates an anti-piracy hotline: 1800 251 996.

info@afact.com.au
www.afact.com.au

About MIPI

Music Industry Piracy Investigations Pty Ltd is the anti-piracy organisation for the Australian music industry. MIPI represents close to 125 music labels through their association, ARIA and over 1,700 music publishers and songwriters through their association, AMCOS.

MIPI operates a free-call anti-piracy hotline at 1800 06 16 16.

mipi@mipi.com.au
www.mipi.com.au