



## **earthwave – First Australian MSSP to gain Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard Certification**

***Offering Australian clients the ability to optimise protection of cardholder data and ensure compliance with the standard***

**Sydney, AUST., 03 August 2009** earthwave, leading Australian managed security service provider today announced that it has gained the PCI DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard) Attestation of Compliance, making it the only Australian MSSP (Managed Security Services Provider) with the accreditation.

The PCI DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard) secures cardholder payment data that is stored, processed or transmitted by merchants and processors. Since 2007 all Australian businesses handling cardholder data irrespective of size have been mandated to comply with these strict security standards drawn up by the world's major credit card companies, however not many have until recently when the payment card brands started to enforce hefty fines for non compliance. Furthermore, recent changes to the standard insist that any merchant outsourcing their security infrastructure management, such as firewall and IPS systems to a managed security service provider must also ensure their preferred MSSP is certified.

“Suddenly we had a surge in the number of existing and new clients requesting that we become certified as they were being penalised as a result of the new standards. There are many requirements around firewall management, IDS, logging, file integrity monitoring, alerting, etc. If we manage the firewalls for a PCI merchant they will note that the firewalls are managed by a PCI compliant service provider to take into account the requirements around policies and procedures. As you can imagine, anyone in our position can very easily turn an IDS/IPS into a sniffer and obtain sensitive card information.” said Ayden Nash, earthwave Compliance Manager.

Compliance is mandated by the payment card brands and not by the PCI Security Standards Council. However, for most merchants, the deadlines for validating compliance with the PCI DSS have already passed. Merchants should check with their acquirer and/or merchant bank to check if any specific deadlines apply to them, based on merchant transaction volume (level) as determined by the card payment brands. All entities that transmit, process or store payment card data must be compliant with PCI DSS.

“As the volume of security threats continues to rise, hacking and phishing attacks continue to devastate Australian businesses, and more organisations report lost or compromised customer data; it is crucial that organisations dealing with and storing customer credit card information take due care and are compliant with the PCI DSS code to ensure customer data is protected. Since gaining this validation

earthwave has received a number of enquiries from clients who require their MSSP to be certified under the amended code.” said Carlo Minassian, CEO, earthwave.

The compliance assessment for earthwave was carried out by Bridge Point Communications which took two months to complete. “The PCI DSS is a multifaceted security standard that includes necessities for security management, policies, procedures, network architecture, software design and other critical protective measures. PCI DSS specifies 12 requirements entailing many security technologies and business processes, and reflects most of the usual best practices for securing sensitive information. During the assessment process, earthwave achieved all these requirements and was awarded the certificate.” said Daryl Haines, Qualified Security Assessor, Bridge Point.

“A business entity that is not a payment brand, directly involved in the processing, storage, or transmission of cardholder data such as companies that provide services that control or could impact the security of cardholder data are all within scope of the PCI DSS requirements. All existing merchants must confirm that their outsourcer, managed service provider or hosting provider has the necessary level of certification as not many currently do. Entities such as telecommunications companies that only provide communication links without access to the application layer of the communication link are usually excluded from the PCI DSS scope. ” said Daryl Haines, Qualified Security Assessor, Bridge Point.

With this level of compliance earthwave can provide managed security services for any clients requiring the PCI DSS certification as well as carrier neutral Clean Pipes, Secure Hosting and Secure Internet Gateway services. The earthwave Secure Internet Gateway has also achieved certification to the Highly Protected classification level by the Defence Signals Directorate (DSD), Australia's national authority for information security.

“The earthwave Managed Security Services and Secure Internet Gateway services include Firewall, Intrusion Prevention, IPSec and SSL VPN, Mail and Web Protection, Two-factor Authentication, Vulnerability Management, Vulnerability Remediation, Threat Intelligence, Encrypted Attack and DDoS Prevention, supported by robust and proven processes. One of earthwave’s key differentiators is our ability to deliver real time threat detection, analysis and incident response unique to each client’s environment. Our ongoing risks management program, proactive auditing and end-to-end approach to security insures our gateway clients utilise our expertise as soon as they connect to our gateway,” said Carlo Minassian, earthwave CEO.

The earthwave Managed Security Services, Clean Pipes, Secure Hosting and Secure Internet Gateway with PCI DSS certification is available immediately through the earthwave Certified Security Provider channel partner network.

### **About earthwave**

earthwave provides around-the-clock (24x7) network security management and end-to-end network security services to protect an organisation’s critical information assets. earthwave provides the key to protecting and strengthening enterprise value in the e-era. We combine many years of information security experience with proprietary tools, proven methodologies, and the largest commercial database of known threats and vulnerabilities in the information security world. Using industry leading data mining and correlation technology, earthwave transforms network-monitoring data into powerful information, enabling companies and organisations to confidently compete in today’s electronic marketplace.

We specialise in network security and information integrity. No other company can match the technical and industry expertise of earthwave's elite pool of resources. With all of our technical staff holding high-level security certifications and government clearances, we bring to the commercial market accumulated experience handling the most sensitive and sophisticated secure network environments. Headquartered in Sydney, earthwave specialises in proactive network security management through a comprehensive and integrated set of offerings including: Managed Security Services, Secure Internet Gateway, Security Consulting, Secure Hosting, and Security Solutions.

**earthwave Media Contact:**

Bridie Gaynor

Kinetics

[bridie@kinetics.com.au](mailto:bridie@kinetics.com.au)

02 9212 3848

0409 998 007