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Press Release

CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSES LAUNCHED IN AUSTRIA

Creative Commons introduces its innovative licensing system for copyrighted digital material to Austria; announcement coincides with the organization's honor at the Ars Electronica Festival

San Francisco, CA and Linz, Austria – Sep. 11, 2004 – Creative Commons, a nonprofit organization seeking to promote the sharing of high-quality content, introduced its innovative copyright licensing system to Austria this week. The Creative Commons licenses, already in widespread use in a number of nations, help authors and artists share their work online, on certain terms. Building on the “all rights reserved” of traditional copyright, Creative Commons licenses create a voluntary system of “some rights reserved” creativity.

A team of professional lawyers and legal academics in Austria, led by Julia Kueng of the University of Innsbruck's law faculty and Georg Pleger of the Austrian Computer Society (OCG), adapted the licenses to Austria law. Creative Commons permanent staff, based in San Francisco and Berlin, coordinated the project.

The license launch coincided with the Ars Electronica Festival in Linz, Austria, where Creative Commons was awarded the Golden Nica in the 2004 Prix Ars Electronica's Net Vision category.

“We are honored and humbled to accept this award, and delighted to do so at the same time as our Austrian debut,” said Lawrence Lessig, chairman of Creative Commons and professor at Stanford University Law School, who delivered a talk at the Ars Electronica Festival in Linz on September 6. “We have our worldwide network of superb volunteers, like those here in Austria, to thank for this honor today.”

For 25 years, Ars Electronica has been tracking and nurturing the digital revolution, analyzing the social and cultural effects of digital media and communications technologies from critical as well as utopian, artistic and scientific perspectives.

Austria is the seventh jurisdiction to adapt and adopt the Creative Commons licensed, following Japan, Brazil, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, and Taiwan.

Internationalizing the Creative Commons project is one of the main priorities for the San Francisco-based organization this year. “We look forward to being



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able to add more countries to the list this fall," says Christiane Asschenfeldt, the iCommons Coordinator, based in Berlin. "Thanks are due to the friends of Creative Commons around the world."

About Creative Commons

A nonprofit corporation founded in 2001, Creative Commons promotes the creative re-use of intellectual and artistic works—whether owned or in the public domain—by empowering authors and audiences. It is sustained by the generous support of the Center for the Public Domain, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Omidyar Network Fund, and the Hewlett Foundation.

For general information, visit <<http://creativecommons.org>>.

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Press Kit

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