

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Gemplus Acquires Pharos' Stake in Netsize Communications**

*Second exit for Pharos I Fund*

Dallas, Texas, April 29, 2002 – GemVentures, the corporate venture capital fund of Gemplus International S.A. (NASDAQ: GEMP), the world's leading player in the smart card industry, acquired Pharos' investment stake in Netsize Communications, Europe's leading mobile solutions provider, Pharos announced today. Terms were not disclosed.

Pharos acquired its stake in Netsize in July, 2000, and held one Board seat. GemVentures is an existing investor of Netsize that sought to increase its stake in the company. This disposition is the second full exit for Pharos from their \$155 million, vintage year 2000 fund.

“We determined that a strengthening of the Netsize/Gemplus relationship would substantially enhance the business prospects of Netsize and allow us an exit that will be beneficial to our investors,” said Mike Devlin, Pharos Managing Partner.

Stanislas Chesnais, Chief Executive Officer of Netsize, said, “Pharos have been proactive and efficient from the start, that is from the very first minute we started talking with them. They are not complaisant which is fine since that is probably the best way to prepare for the next steps. They truly helped us move up both in the financial and technological arenas and better position ourselves against our competitors.”

### **About Pharos Capital**

Founded in 1998, Pharos Capital Partners is a leading private equity firm focused on underserved markets. Pharos assists exceptional entrepreneurs in meeting and exceeding their goals to build innovative and market leading companies. The firm primarily invests \$5 to \$15 million in companies seeking later stage equity funding for internal growth, acquisitions, management buyouts or recapitalizations across industry sectors, with particular focus on healthcare, business services and technology.

### **About Netsize Communications**

Netsize, a pioneer in Short Messaging Services (SMS) network deployment, is an international wireless message operator, seeking to become the world leader in mobile Internet message routing. Through its multi-channel service, Netsize can carry wireless messages over all communications channels (SMS, IP messaging, radio broadcasts, etc.). All Netsize solutions are scalable and designed to be adapted to a range of communications channels such as SMS, EMS (Enhanced Messaging Services) or MMS (Multimedia Messaging Services).

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