PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

<u>New version 9.0 of CONVAL® ready for the international market</u>

Continued with a convincing boost to innovation

Wermelskirchen, NRW, Germany, January 2013: At the Valve World in November 2012 in Dusseldorf for the first time presented new version 9.0 of CONVAL® from FIRST GmbH is now available!

Beside an improved handling, a more flexible licensing and certainly updated and reviewed standards we have to point out especially towards the introduction of the Key Performance Indicator "Ri": it's the base of an expert system with detailed alarms, warnings and hints in order to improve the overall reliability of a valve solution for liquid, gas and steam applications.

Here we check and predict the possible impact on the valve reliability caused by the combination of multiple influencing factors, such as cavitation, flashing, flow velocity, noise level, differential pressure, energy conversion, corrosion, abrasion... and more.

The performance is completed by release of new calculation modules for rupture discs, thermoswells and level transmitter calibration.

A new milestone is set by the CONVAL® team in the successful history of the software solution!

F.I.R.S.T. - Gesellschaft für technisch-wissenschaftliche Softwareanwendungen mbH, based in Wermelskirchen (Cologne / Dusseldorf area), came into being in 1989. The company's goal is to continuously improve CONVAL[®], a powerful software product for sizing, calculating and optimizing the components and processes in industrial plant systems, and to sell it in the international marketplace. The idea for CONVAL[®] was born in the late seventies and originally realized in the guise of small routines for programmable pocket calculators. Many of the calculation modules that today are integral elements of CONVAL[®] existed in a simplified form even then. In 1985 a team of experienced engineers from the fields of instrumentation and control, chemical processes and machine building, as well as various other branches of industry, joined forces with software development experts. At the end of a development phase lasting four years, they were able to present the first results – christened CONVAL[®] 1.0 – at INTERKAMA '89.

CONVAL[®] saves time and money by standardizing the workflows for calculating and optimizing plant components – eliminates work-intensive and therefore time-consuming custom calculations – minimizes the probability of errors with the help of verified design parameters – facilitates access to the latest published properties – enables critical states to be simulated on the basis of specified disturbance quantities – prevents unscheduled plant shutdowns by means of numerous engineered safeguards – integrates easily into application-specific software environments and with its customer-friendly price structure offers an exceptionally fast R.O.I. Finely tuned to real-world needs and founded on innovative software architecture, CONVAL[®] already helps boost the productivity of several thousand satisfied users worldwide.

In addition to CONVAL[®], F.I.R.S.T. GmbH today also offers consulting and customized software development mainly for technical applications.