

# 3<sup>RD</sup> TIER SUPPLIERS NETWORK SECURITY ISSUES

## **Executive Summary**

This document describes the methods that can be used to interconnect different enterprises to build “Virtual Organisations” in order to offer to the different partners a way to access resources available on different sites separated geographically; this form of organisation will allow the enterprises to reach new business opportunities and make a profit due to collaboration with other enterprises. Different approaches of interconnection (externalisation or internalisation of enterprises’ activities) will be described in this document. Firstly, a description of the Virtual Organisation concept and a highlighting on the security concerns within SMEs and SMIs are given. Secondly, a description of the internalisation and its realisation using Virtual Private Networks and Project Zones is given. Then, the two technologies “Value Added Networks” and “collaboration platforms” are defined as solutions for externalisation; their security features and their influence on the enterprise business processes are also mentioned.