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Press Release

VFS Global expands network for Russia Visa Application Centres across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East

As Russia gears up to welcome visitors for FIFA Confederations Cup 2017 and World Cup 2018, VFS Global opens Russia Visa Application Centres in 14 countries in just 7 months

MOSCOW: In a move to enhance visa application services for travelers to Russia globally, VFS Global has launched Russia Visa Application Centres in 14 countries and 31 cities, many of them in Eastern and Western Europe, in the last 7 months. The centres are rolled out on behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, across Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

The Russia Visa Application Centre in Geneva, Switzerland, on 23 January 2017 is the latest such centre to be opened. Since June 2016, the company has launched similar well-appointed Visa Application Centres in Portugal, Poland, Czech Republic, Greece, Germany, Belgium, Austria, the Netherlands, Romania, Lithuania, Turkey, China, and the UAE.

All the centres are centrally located with staff that have multi-lingual (Russian and local language) capabilities to handle queries and applications. For dissemination of information, VFS has set up dedicated websites for each location providing applicants with easy access to details about visa categories, requirements, checklist and applicable fees.

The rollouts come ahead of major sporting events scheduled this year and next, when inbound travel to the country is expected to rise significantly. Russia is preparing to host the Confederations Cup later this year, a prelude to the FIFA World Cup in 2018. The new centres will significantly improve accessibility and conveniences for travellers planning to travel to Russia.

VFS Global has been providing visa processing services for the Government of the Russian Federation since 2009, and currently serves the government in 18 countries, including the United Kingdom, Finland, Singapore, and South Korea.

Said **Mr Anirudh Pratap Singh, Head – UK & Europe, VFS Global**, “Our long-standing partnership with our esteemed client government, the Russian Federation, over the last seven years, is reflective of the trust they have in us through this successful relationship. We are privileged to further extend our network for them and remain committed to providing comprehensive end-to-end visa services for applicants”.

About VFS Global

VFS Global is the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions worldwide. With **2214 application centres**, operations in **126 countries** across **five continents and over 135 million applications processed** as on 31 December 2016, VFS Global serves the interests of **50 client governments**. VFS Global's worldwide operations are certified **ISO 9001:2008** for Quality Management System, **ISO 27001:2013** for Information Security Management System and **ISO 14001:2004** for Environmental Management System. For more information, please visit www.vfsglobal.com

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