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Austin Texas Selected by International IT Panel to Host 2006 World Congress on Information Technology

“Olympics of Information Technology” Joins Government and Industry Elite; Projected to Infuse \$17 Million into Austin’s Local Economy

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA – March 1, 2002 – Today, Austin, Texas became the official 2006 Host City for the 15th biennial World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) in a unanimous decision by the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA). Described as the “Olympics of IT,” WCIT is the only global IT event to attract luminaries from government, industry and academia to discuss trends, innovations integrating IT between countries, companies and communities in both emerging and established world markets. The conference will take place in the recently expanded Austin Convention Center in May of 2006.

“Hosting the World Congress on Information Technology is an opportunity for Austin to prove that it is an international business and technology center,” said Austin Mayor Gus Garcia. “I congratulate the volunteers of Austin WCIT 2006 for helping tell the world that Austin is the best place to do business.”

“We are thrilled that WITSA’s board of director’s awarded Austin, Texas the honor of hosting this premier IT event,” said Harris Miller, president of the Information Technology Association of America. “With more than 50 semiconductor manufacturing companies, 95 computer manufacturing companies and 750 software development companies, Austin is a leading center for IT. The city has the attitude, expertise and infrastructure to deliver a world-class event. Austin is also a compelling venue to visit because it is easily accessible from either US coast, Canada and Latin America.”

During the next three years, Austin's WCIT 2006 organization will identify speakers and develop the innovative program agenda for which the event is known. This year's event, held in Adelaide, Australia, included a keynote speech from former President Bill Clinton about globalization in the 21st century, and a presentation from author and futurist Dan Tapscott about competing in an age of hypercapitalism. Topics from WCIT 2002 ranged from the convergence of devices, access and economics to the impact of the human genome project on human potential. Additional discussion included IT issues related to security, intellectual property, trade facilitation, government procurement and knowledge trade and transfer.

The success of Austin's bid was possible thanks to support from the City of Austin, Austin Software Council, ITAA, Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau, The IC2 Institute at The University of Austin, and the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce. Sponsors already include Andersen (Founding Sponsor), SBC Communications Inc. and Vinson and Elkins (Founding Sponsor), as well as key support from Austin Ventures, Webcrayon, Adelaide, Australia's WCIT 2002 organization, and the Austin-Adelaide Sister City Committee.

Editor's Notes:

The 2004 World Congress on Information Technology will be held in Athens, Greece.

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About WCIT and WITSA

WCIT is the premier Information Communication Technology conference of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA). Representing more than 97 percent of the world's IT market, WITSA is a consortium of 47 IT industry associations from economies around the world. Founded in 1978, and originally known as the World Computing Services Industry Association, WITSA has increasingly assumed an active advocacy role in international public policy issues affecting the creation of a robust global information infrastructure. For more information, please visit www.witsa.org.

About ITAA

The Information Technology Association of America (ITAA) provides global public policy, business networking, and national leadership to promote the continued rapid growth of the IT industry. ITAA consists of over 500 corporate members throughout the U.S., and a global network of 41 countries' IT associations. The Association plays the leading role in issues of IT industry concern including information security, taxes and finance policy, digital intellectual property protection, telecommunications competition, workforce and education, immigration, online privacy and consumer protection, government IT procurement, human resources and e-commerce policy. ITAA members range from the smallest IT start-ups to industry leaders in the Internet, software, IT services, ASP, digital content, systems integration, telecommunications, and enterprise solution fields. For more information visit www.ita.org or www.ita.org/infosec.

About Austin 2006 WCIT

Austin 2006 WCIT is a Texas-based non-profit organization founded by members of Austin's public and private sectors to continue the development of Austin as a premier international IT center. The organization, in cooperation with the WITSA, ITAA and ASC, will develop a conference that identifies IT trends and addresses potential impacts on emerging and established world markets. Reflecting both the innovative and collaborative nature of global IT business, the theme for Austin WCIT 2006 is "Embracing New Directions." For more information on WCIT 2006, please visit <http://www.wcit2006.org/>.