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Data Systems Worldwide Attains Gold Certified Partner Status in Microsoft Partner Program

Data Systems Worldwide distinguishes itself by earning Microsoft Competency in Advanced Infrastructure Solutions, Network Infrastructure Solutions, and Information Worker Solutions.

Woodland Hills, CA – Data Systems Worldwide (DSW) announced today that they have attained Gold Certified Partner status in the Microsoft Partner Program with three competencies: *Advanced Infrastructure Solutions*, *Networking Infrastructure Solutions*, and *Information Worker Solutions*. As a Gold Certified Partner, DSW has demonstrated their expertise with Microsoft technologies, and a proven ability to meet customers' needs. Microsoft Gold Certified Partners receive a rich set of benefits, including access, training, and support; proving to be a competitive advantage in the channel.

Data Systems Worldwide, Inc. is an IT solutions firm that designs, builds, and manages enterprise application infrastructure. Supplying only the 'best of breed' software and hardware products to clients, DSW specializes in developing customized technology solutions for growing businesses.

"We are extremely pleased to have attained Gold Certified Partner status in the Microsoft Partner Program. This allows us to clearly promote our expertise and relationship with Microsoft to our customers; the benefits provided through our Gold Certified Partner status will allow us to continue to enhance the offerings that we provide for our customers." said Phil Mogavero, DSW President and CEO.

"Customers are looking for partner companies that can bridge the gap between their business demands and technology capabilities," said Allison Watson, Corporate Vice President of the Worldwide Partner Group at Microsoft Corp.

"They need to trust in a company that can act as an expert adviser for their long-term strategic technology plans. Microsoft Gold Certified Partners, which have certified expertise and direct training and support from Microsoft, can build a positive customer experience with our technologies. Today, Microsoft recognizes Data Systems Worldwide as a new Gold Certified Partner for demonstrating its expertise in providing customer satisfaction using Microsoft products and technology."

As one of the specifications for attaining Gold Certified Partner status, DSW was required to declare a Microsoft Competency. Microsoft Competencies are designed to help differentiate partners' capabilities with specific Microsoft technologies to customers looking for a particular type of solution. Each Competency has a unique set of requirements and benefits, formulated to accurately represent the specific skills and services that partners bring to the technology industry. Within select Competencies, there are Specializations that focus on specific solution

areas that recognize deeper expertise within that Competency. Serving as a path to earn those Competencies, Specializations give direct access to the tools and resources that support these specific areas of focus.

Advanced Infrastructure Solutions Competency

The Advanced Infrastructure Solutions Competency is designed for partners with proven expertise in designing and/or implementing complex infrastructure solutions, such as the Active Directory service, and Microsoft Host Integration Server based design and deployment solutions, and Microsoft Exchange Server migration or deployment solutions. As customers increasingly ask to do more with less, partners with the Advanced Infrastructure Solutions Competency can identify their unique skill in helping customers access management solutions, improve operational efficiency, and reduce security risks. Specializations within the competency include Microsoft Active Directory and Identity Management, Microsoft Exchange Server Migration and Deployment, Microsoft Hosting Solutions, Microsoft Systems Management Solutions and Microsoft Storage Solutions.

“Our industry partners allow us to deliver high-quality solutions and applications to our customers, and we’re always looking at ways to improve our relationships,” said Paul Flessner, Senior Vice President of Server Applications at Microsoft Corp.

“Solutions Competencies enable Microsoft to provide resources and training to partners seeking to meet, and even surpass, customer needs. The competencies also provide industry partners with a way to showcase their expertise to customers that depend on them for services, such as building critical infrastructure - including storage and hosting solutions.”

Information Worker Solutions Competency

Designed to provide additional benefit and support to partners specializing in collaboration, portals and other productivity solutions, the Information Worker Solutions Competency is utilized by Gold Certified Partners that provide their customers with solutions built on familiar programs which enable them to better manage, prioritize and collaborate on increasing volumes of information. Partners that have obtained the Information Worker Solutions Competency can help their customers realize increased service revenues and new market opportunities. Specializations within the competency include Microsoft Enterprise, Project Management, Microsoft Messaging and Collaboration, Microsoft Office Smart Client Development, Microsoft Office System Desktop Development, Microsoft Portals and Enterprise Content Management.

“Partners play a critical role in delivering solutions and applications to customers with the Microsoft Office system,” said Chris Capossela, Corporate Vice President of the Product Management Group, Microsoft Business Division at Microsoft Corp.

“The value of Solutions Competencies is that they enable Microsoft to deliver resources and training to partners meeting their customer needs. For partners, the opportunity to highlight their expertise to customers is tremendous in the growing information worker solutions market.”

Networking Infrastructure Solutions Competency

Microsoft Gold Certified Partners enrolled in the Networking Infrastructure Solutions Competency have proved their expertise in implementing technology solutions based on either the Microsoft Windows Server 2003 or Windows 2000 Server operating system, with a particular focus on Microsoft Small Business Server 2000 and Windows Small Business Server 2003. These implementations may include crafting solutions that connect

Windows-based servers, PC locations and the Internet, installing a server farm, or building a small-business Windows Server stand-alone solution that includes file and print capabilities.

“We place tremendous value on our partners, who help us deliver solutions and applications to customers,” said Allison Watson, corporate vice president of the Worldwide Partner Group at Microsoft Corp.

“Solutions Competencies provide an integrated partnering framework that recognizes an enterprise’s expertise and rewards it for the effect it has in the technology marketplace. It also allows companies to demonstrate for customers their knowledge of building solutions based on Microsoft technologies, such as setting up networks using Windows Server 2003 R2 and Windows Small Business Server 2003.”

The Microsoft Partner Program was launched in October 2003 and represents Microsoft’s ongoing commitment to the success of partners worldwide. The program offers a single, integrated partnering framework that recognizes partner expertise, rewards the total impact that partners have in the technology marketplace, and delivers more value to help partners’ businesses be successful.

About DSW

Founded in 1971 and headquartered in Woodland Hills, California; DSW has been recognized as “One of the Fastest Growing Companies in Southern California,” a “Smart 100 Technology Company,” and a “VAR 500” company. In 1986, DSW’s founder Frank Mogavero was inducted into the exclusive Computer Industry Hall of Fame.

DSW offers an innovative approach in helping clients throughout the Technology Investment Lifecycle to improve application uptime and security, while decreasing operational cost. DSW invests heavily in researching and testing the industry’s cutting-edge technology in their Secure Network Application Platform (SNAP) lab, where they train personnel to provide exceptional support, and tailor their Business-2-net (B2n) Portal to monitor and manage this technology. As a founding member of 1NService, Inc., DSW’s client support extends throughout North America, and leverages a network of nearly 2000 IT professionals.

Hundreds of organizations have chosen DSW as their ‘Total Solutions Partner,’ because DSW is a leader in scalable systems, extensible applications, secure networks, strategic services, and application hosting. DSW has a rich history in implementing solutions that meet customer’s goals, and then managing every aspect of their LAN, WAN, MAN, Internet, and Intranet Application Services.

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For more information, press only:

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