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INCITS Forms New Study Group on Accessibility

Interested Parties Welcome at February 16-17, 2005 Meeting

Washington, DC, February 8, 2005 – The InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS) has established a new Study Group on Accessibility and announces the group's first meeting for February 16-17, 2005 at Oracle headquarters in Redwood Shores, California. The INCITS Study Group on Accessibility is being formed to serve as the U.S. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to a new ISO/IEC JTC 1 Special Working Group (SWG) on Accessibility.

At the October, 2004 JTC 1 plenary in Berlin, Germany, ISO/IEC JTC 1 unanimously approved the establishment of the new Special Working Group on Accessibility in response to a U.S. National Body proposal regarding accessibility standardization. Karen Higginbottom, Director of Standards Initiatives for Hewlett-Packard and Chair of the INCITS Executive Board, was appointed the SWG Convener, and the INCITS professional staff will serve as the international secretariat. The SWG plans to meet twice in 2005, and will hold its first meeting in Sheffield, England on April 11-12, 2005.

The INCITS Study Group on Accessibility will create U.S. National Body contributions, develop U.S. National Body positions, and identify the U.S. delegation and Head of Delegation to the JTC 1 SWG on Accessibility.

Membership on the INCITS Study Group on Accessibility is open to all directly and materially affected parties that meet attendance, voting, and service fee requirements. Interested parties and technical experts who wish to attend the February 16-17 formation meeting should contact Jennifer Garner at jgarner@itic.org. Additional details on the Study Group will be posted on the INCITS web site (www.incits.org) as they become available; media inquires should be directed to Patrick Morris at pmorris@itic.org.

About INCITS

The mission of the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS) is to promote the effective use of Information and Communication Technology through standardization in a way that balances the interests of all stakeholders and increases the global competitiveness of the member organizations. INCITS serves as the U.S. Technical Advisory Group for ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee 1, which is responsible for international standardization in the field of information technology.

INCITS and the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) are jointly accredited by, and operate under rules approved by, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). These rules are designed to ensure that voluntary standards are developed by the consensus of directly and materially affected interests. For further information, please contact INCITS, 1250 Eye St. NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005 (www.incits.org).

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