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**FINALISTS FOR VICS COLLABORATIVE COMMERCE
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS ANNOUNCED**

Awards to be Presented at Retail Systems 2006 and Value Chain Vision Conference

Chicago, IL— Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Solutions (VICS) Association and Retail Systems Alert Group, organizers of the annual Retail Systems® Conference & Exposition, announced today the finalists for this year's VICS Collaborative Commerce Achievement Awards. The Awards are presented by the VICS Board of Directors each year as part of the Value Chain Vision Conference, co-located with the annual Retail Systems Conference, held May 21-24, 2006 at McCormick Place, Chicago, IL, USA.

The 2006 VICS Collaborative Commerce Achievement Awards honor outstanding examples of strategic thinking and leadership, as well as GS1 US and VICS best practices utilization, which have resulted in more effective supply chain partnerships. The awards recognize efforts and company-wide dedication to customer satisfaction that have made continuous improvements to the supply chain. The Awards will be presented at The VICS 20th Anniversary Board of Directors Dinner and Awards ceremony held on May 22, 2006,

2006 VICS Collaborative Commerce Achievement Awards Finalists

The finalists for the category "Best on Retail Side" are:

- Dillard's Store Services
- The Home Depot
- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

The finalists for the category "Best on Supply Side" are:

- Levi Strauss & Co.
- Novozymes A/S

The finalists for the category "Best in VICS CPFR® Implementation" are:

- Dillard's Store Services with Nygard International Partners
- LCBO (Liquor Control Board of Ontario) with Corby Distillers Limited
- West Marine with ITT Industries

The finalists for the category "Best Third Party Provider" are:

- Manugistics

- Schnieder Logistics
- Roadway Express

“The nominations this year were all outstanding, so these finalists really are the best of the best. It will be a difficult task to select a winner in each category because each of the finalists has reported excellent results through collaboration,” said Joe Andraski, president and CEO of VICS.

The VICS Board of Directors will also be announcing the 2006 winner of the prestigious **Roger Milliken Career Achievement Award**, which is presented to an individual who has demonstrated leadership through selfless support and utilization of Uniform Code Council and VICS Standards as well as standards committee participation.

The Value Chain Vision Conference is co-located with Retail Systems 2006, which offers four days of educational and networking opportunities for all professionals in the extended retail industry, including retailers, manufacturers, distributors, IT vendors, 3PLs and warehousing professionals. This is the only event of the year that brings together all segments of the retail, CPG, and apparel industries.

For more information or to register please visit www.retailsystems.com.

About VICS.

The Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Solutions (VICS) Association has enabled companies in the retail and consumer-focused industries to eliminate billions of dollars of waste and delay. By creating voluntary guidelines, often referred to as “standards,” VICS has created new best practices that ultimately lead to lower costs and better availability of products for consumers. VICS’ volunteer members improve the flow of products and information throughout retailing and the consumer-focused industries that supply retail. The Association provides leadership and an environment in which executives can make a difference in their industry, their company performance—and their personal commitment to make the world work a little bit better. VICS’ members help define the next best practices in the industries and thus anticipate and optimize business processes and costs. Additional information can be found at www.vics.org .

About Retail Systems Alert Group

Retail Systems Alert Group is a global research and events company that has followed the advancements of technology applications within the retail, CPG, and apparel industries for more than a decade. The company provides analysis and insight about a broad spectrum of issues and trends through publications, conferences and expositions, Internet services, special reports, and customized research. Retail Systems Alert Group has organized the annual Retail Systems Conference & Exposition, America’s leading Retail IT and Supply Chain Event for more than 15 years. For more information, visit www.retailsystems.com.

Retail Systems Alert Group is a trade name of Retail Systems B2B LLC, a Proximus Company.

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