



VOLUNTARY INTERINDUSTRY  
COMMERCE STANDARDS

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**For Immediate Release:**

## **VICS Moves Forward With New Committees and Initiatives**

**Lawrenceville, N.J. May 18, 2004** -The Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Standards (VICS) Association Board of Directors announced today major initiatives at the 2004 VICS/Retail Systems annual conference.

The Board of Directors have given their enthusiastic support for:

**Three New Committees** that will enable VICS members to lead the Retail industry in evaluating and developing guideline solutions that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Retail / Consumer Goods Value Chain.

- The Apparel RFID - EPC™ Committee

This committee will address the opportunities for the use of the new EPC™ technology in the fashion apparel industry, and work closely with EPC Global

- The Retail Out of Stock Committee

In this committee, suppliers, retailers, and solution providers will leverage each other's perspective, expertise, and resources in developing proactive guidelines that address the root sources of retail out of stocks.

- The eCollaborative Commerce Committee for General Merchandise

This committee will work with UCCnet in the development of the steps required to exchange accurate information between trading partners, in order to realize substantial gains in productivity, while preparing for the implementation of RFID -EPC™ with clean data.

*“Leveraging broad industry knowledge and leadership to drive positive change is a VICS core principle, and these committees will bring a fresh perspective to some of the biggest supply chain challenges facing companies today,”* said Randy Mott senior vice president and CIO, Dell.

### Updated Collaborative Planning Forecasting and Replenishment (CPFR®) Model

The proven, practical CPFR® Model has been updated from the learnings of hundreds of successful implementations that have taken place globally. The updated CPFR® model is simpler and more understandable to business executives while providing more detailed guidance to implementers through the use of four business process scenarios.

### VICS Academic Alliance

The VICS Academic Alliance Program also received the enthusiastic approval of the board. Under this program, VICS and executive education centers of leading universities will deliver seminars and workshops, focusing on the work of the several VICS

committees. This is a strong alliance designed to deliver regional educational programs to its members and the business community in general. The first program, “e-Nabling The Collaborative Supply Chain” will be conducted at Polytechnic University, Brooklyn, N.Y. on June 15th, 2004. For more information see [www.poly.edu/vics/](http://www.poly.edu/vics/)

Supporting these new and existing VICS initiatives, the VICS organization has initiated a members-only monthly newsletter, a streamlined committee format, and is enhancing its web resources to increase the value of VICS membership.

So far this year, fifteen leading retailers, suppliers, and solutions providers have joined VICS as new members. With a lean organizational model, hands-on volunteer participation, and combined sales exceeding \$1.3 Trillion, VICS Committees enable intimate collaboration and the critical mass essential for industry adoption.

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### **About the Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Standards (VICS) Association**

The mission of the VICS Association is to take a global leadership role in the ongoing improvement of the flow of product and information about the product throughout the entire supply chain in the retail industry. The Association's overall global objective is to improve product availability to the consumer by providing leadership and encouragement in the identification, development and implementation of volunteer standards, protocols, guidelines, and other mechanisms, which when properly utilized, are expected to lead to better anticipation of, and reaction to, changes in consumer demand for these products with the subsequent optimization of production and carrying costs. For information about becoming a member of VICS or participating in one of its other Board Committees, such as VICS CPFR®, Floor-Ready Merchandise, Hardlines eCollaborative Commerce, or Logistics, please visit [www.vics.org](http://www.vics.org) or [www.cpfr.org](http://www.cpfr.org). You may also contact VICS directly at [info@vics.org](mailto:info@vics.org).