



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

12th Annual Awards to be presented at the U Connect Conference in Orlando

Lawrenceville, NJ — The Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Solutions (VICS) Association today announced the finalists of the 2009 VICS Collaborative Commerce Achievement Awards, which identify and reward excellence in supply chain collaboration. Winners of the VICS Achievement Awards will be decided by votes of the VICS Board of Directors, which include many of the retail and CPG industry's top leaders.

The VICS Board of Directors presents the awards as part of the VICS Annual Conference. This year VICS has again joined with GS1 US to co-produce and present the U Connect Conference to be held June 2-5, 2009 at the Marriott World Center in Orlando.

The 2009 VICS Collaborative Commerce Achievement Awards honor outstanding companies for their strategic thinking and leadership that have resulted in more effective supply chain practices and partnerships. The awards, which will be presented in conjunction with the VICS Board of Directors' dinner on June 3, 2009, recognize the positive results of company-wide dedication to customer satisfaction that have made continuous improvements to the supply chain. The awards and the dinner are sponsored by Hewlett Packard.

2009 VICS Collaborative Commerce Achievement Awards Finalists

Retail Excellence

Dillard's Inc.

Lowe's Companies

Wegman's Food Markets

Supply Side Excellence

Dr. Pepper Snapple Group

JD Williams

Whirlpool Corporation

VICS CPFR® Implementation Excellence

Defense Supply Center Richmond & Oklahoma City Air Logistics
Rite Aid Corporation & Kimberly-Clark Corporation
Safeway Inc. & Kraft Foods

Supply Chain Excellence

Paper Island
Safeway, Inc.
VF Corporation

Best Third-Party Technology Provider

Cisco Systems, Inc.
DemandTec
eBizprise, Inc.

Best Third-Party Service Provider

Edifice Information Management, Inc.
GENCO Supply Chain Solutions
Schneider National

Sustainability Excellence

Hewlett Packard
J.B. Hunt
Walmart Corporation

“All of this year’s finalists were excellent examples of what makes our industry so efficient and effective. We appreciate all of the companies that submitted nominations and look forward to learning about the winners at our annual conference,” said Joe Andraski, President and CEO of VICS.

The VICS Board of Directors will also be announcing the 2009 winner of the prestigious VICS **Roger Milliken Lifetime Achievement Award**, which is presented to an individual who has demonstrated leadership through selfless support and utilization of GS1 and VICS Standards as well as standards committee participation. The 2008 Roger Milliken award was presented to Jim McLaughlin, former Vice President, Process and Services Management, The Gillette Company.

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.

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