



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Major Retailers Connect With Suppliers at U Connect Conference

- **Eight of top 11 retailers in the U.S. to take part**
- **Early-bird discount ends on March 31**

LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J. (March 17, 2010) – Representatives of more than 20 major retailers, including eight of the country’s largest 11, will converge June 8 through 10 at the 2010 U Connect Conference[®], where they will drive a variety of structured sessions designed to improve supply-chain management with trading partners.

Best Buy, Lowe’s, McLane, Sears/Kmart, Wakefern and Wegmans will host “How to Do Business With...” special sessions, in which they will discuss their collaboration practices. McLane will share its new data-synchronization process for “New Item Introduction,” while Wegmans will cover “Achieving Master Item Data Completion.” A complete and current list is available at www.uconnectevent.org.

“Trading Partner Roundtables” will give suppliers the opportunity to meet with their retailer and distributor customers in small groups and discuss opportunities to improve their supply-chain processes. Demand-side trading partners scheduled to participate include: Ace Hardware Corporation; Acosta Sales; Advantage Sales and Marketing; Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES); Associated Food Stores; Associated Grocers, Inc.; Associated Wholesale Grocers; Best Buy; Big Lots; Costco; Dillard’s; Dot Foods; Lowe’s; McLane; Sears/Kmart; SUPERVALU; Target; Wakefern; and Wegmans.

In addition, Walmart Chief Information Officer Rollin Ford will deliver an opening-day keynote on Tues., June 8, while representatives from other retailers will speak during multiple scheduled breakout sessions.

“The strength of our retailer lineup signifies the value that collaboration brings to the trading-partner relationship and why we continue to see this aspect grow each year,” said Bill Voltmer, senior vice president, Industry & Business Development, GS1 US.

“We give supply-chain professionals a unique opportunity to both hear from an important constituency and learn about the state of the art from experts in other sectors as well.”

The conference offers extensive content beyond retail relationships, also. The agenda covers healthcare and foodservice in numerous sessions, with cross-industry sessions on topics such as data quality, visibility, sustainability and security.

The conference, with the theme, “Build a More Visible, Secure and Sustainable Value Chain,” will be held at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort, beginning on Mon., June 7 with pre-conference seminars. The main conference begins June 8. Exhibits will be open Monday through Wednesday.

Early-bird discounts end on March 31.

For more information: www.uconnectevent.org.

About U Connect:

The U Connect Conference is an annual event hosted by GS1 US and its conference partner, the Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Solutions Association (VICS). It brings trading partners together in a neutral environment to network and learn about the value of using standards-based business processes and best practices for optimum efficiencies in managing the supply and demand sides of the value chain. The event draws attendees from multiple industries and business functions, as well as standards communities of the GS1 System, and offers solutions to value-chain problems, regardless of company size or type. The U Connect Conference celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2010.

About GS1 US™

GS1 US is a not-for-profit organization that brings industry communities together to solve supply-chain problems through the adoption and implementation of GS1 standards. More than 200,000 businesses in 25 industries rely on GS1 US for trading-partner collaboration and for maximizing the cost effectiveness, speed, visibility, security and sustainability of their business processes. They achieve these benefits through GS1 US solutions based on GS1 global unique numbering and identification systems, barcodes, Electronic Product Code-based RFID, data synchronization, and electronic information exchange. GS1 US also manages the United Nations Standard Products and Services Code® (UNSPSC®). www.GS1US.org.

About VICS

The Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Standards (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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