



■ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY COUNCIL ■

## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Shannon Feaster-Stewart  
202-626-5725

### **HIGH TECH LAUDS USTR FOR MOVING FORWARD WITH WTO AGENDA**

**March 31, 2003 Washington, DC** -- The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) today welcomed an announcement by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) that it has submitted the US market access offer on services to World Trade Organization (WTO) members, keeping to today's deadline for offers.

"ITI applauds Ambassador Zoellick for maintaining momentum in the WTO leading up to the conclusion of the Doha Round negotiations set for 2005," said ITI President Rhett Dawson. "Services are a key factor to facilitating trade in information technology, and the USTR is to be commended for its continued efforts to advance the ambitious agenda this Administration has set."

ITI member companies consider the services negotiations to be very important for several reasons. Given the increasing trend for technology users to purchase information technology solutions over the Internet rather than buy products to create their own solutions, liberalization in this area now has even greater importance. Just as many countries have taken actions to open their markets in order to reap the benefits of information technology (IT) goods, countries must also focus their efforts on the liberalization of IT and e-commerce related services to fully realize the potential benefits.

Two key objectives the IT sector hopes to see achieved in the services negotiations include: full market access and national treatment in Computer and Related Services from countries that have not yet made commitments or that have made commitments with limitations; and ensuring that evolving information technology services, including those that are delivered electronically, are covered by GATS commitments for Computer and Related Services without creating barriers for these services.

The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) represents the top U.S. providers of information technology products and services. ITI is the voice of the high tech community, advocating policies that: advance U.S. leadership in technology and innovation; open access to new and emerging markets; promote e-commerce expansion; protect consumer choice; and enhance the global competitiveness of its member companies.

ITI member companies include Accenture, Agilent Technologies, Amazon.com, AOL Time Warner, Apple, Canon U.S.A., Cisco, Corning, Dell, Eastman Kodak, eBay, EMC, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Intel, Lexmark, Microsoft, Motorola, National Semiconductor, NCR, Oracle, Panasonic, Siebel, SGI, Sony Electronics, Sun Microsystems, Symbol Technologies, Tektronix and Unisys. For more information, please contact Shannon Feaster-Stewart at [sfeaster@itic.org](mailto:sfeaster@itic.org).