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IBM Global Services and Timpanogos Technologies™ Join Forces in a New Model for Public Education Software Development and Support

Recent contract renews decades old associations.

Salt Lake City, UT – July 2, 2003 – IBM Global Services and Timpanogos Technologies, a business unit of Comstar Computer Systems, Inc. recently entered into an agreement under which IBM Global Services will make available to school districts the advantages of the non-profit research and development entity, Education Technology Labs, with its school administrative software, combined with professional level support and product maintenance through Timpanogos Technologies. The agreement brings together the persons involved with the original creation and licensing of the popular Comprehensive Information Management for Schools (CIMS®) software family of products and an IBM partnering agreement originally established in 1983 to serve the software needs of the education market. The CIMS® products and trademark are owned by NCS Pearson, Inc. They are widely used by schools on the IBM AS/400® and iSeries in support of district and school administration including management of student records, financial accounting and human resources.

The agreement enables IBM to offer Education Technology Labs membership in combination with Timpanogos Technologies support services to school districts. A discount Charter membership enrollment period is available through July 31, 2003. School district representatives who actively participate in membership will set the direction and priorities for the creation of open-source-to-members software that will improve upon the current features they have in their administrative applications while maintaining compatibility with their existing data and equipment – eliminating the expenses of purchasing new equipment, converting data, licensing fees and training costs which districts using CIMS® would incur if a new product were acquired. Many of the management, support and development personnel of Timpanogos Technologies, including its President, Keith S. Blake, were involved as the original managers and developers when the first CIMS® products were developed and implemented.

The wealth of education and technology experience within Timpanogos Technologies, along with this new model for public education software development and support, combine as a unique offering from IBM Global Services. It makes the best use of resources from each organization and allows schools districts to work together in a fashion not seen before, within their increasingly tight budgets, but with flexibility and continuity. Their cooperation is symbolized by a 'V' formation of geese flying together – able to go much farther and faster working as an organized team. Development can proceed more quickly and the result is better suited for the market with the added benefit of flexibility that allows any entity to add their own custom additions through the open source conventions used within the organization.

"We are thoroughly enjoying the opportunity of working with IBM again", said Joni Nevin Wing, Vice President of Marketing at Timpanogos Technologies. "It was twenty years ago when some

of our people were instrumental in establishing pilots with IBM for some of the first industry partner agreements. Over the years our people have worked with a variety of education-based companies and in numerous professional capacities to now come full circle back to working with IBM. We are promoting a model for school districts to work together with their software vendor towards the development and support of meaningful and timely administrative products for PK-12 education.”

“The majority of our team have worked with school personnel and technology for twenty years; we have a vast wealth of experience,” stated Jeff Scheid, Timpanogos Technologies Director of Sales, who also has compiled Ten (Very) Good Reasons for schools to subscribe through IBM Global Services for Timpanogos Technologies product support.

About Timpanogos Technologies

Timpanogos Technologies is a leading provider of enhancement software and support to school districts using CIMS® products. The company is headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, with offices in Mesa, Arizona, West Linn, Oregon and Fremont, Michigan. They also promote relationships with regional support vendors to provide local first line product assistance to schools. For more information, please visit www.timpotech.com.

About Education Technology Labs

Education Technology Labs is a non-profit research and development corporation, focused on bringing productive, leading edge technology to schools. It is based in American Fork, Utah and currently participating school districts range from Alaska to Massachusetts. Along with others with extensive education experience, its board of directors includes a former state superintendent of instruction. Focus groups, made up of school personnel, provide direction, needs and priorities. Resulting software is professional quality and provided to participating districts as open source code, with no license fee. Support for standard versions is made available through commercial entities. For more information please visit www.edtechlabs.org.

IBM Global Services

IBM Global Services is the world's largest information technology services and consulting provider, generating over \$36 billion in 2002. Approximately 180,000 professionals serve customers in over 160 countries, providing the entire spectrum of customers' e-business needs -- from the business transformation and industry expertise of IBM Business Consulting Services to hosting, infrastructure, technology design and training services. IBM Global Services delivers integrated, flexible and resilient processes -- across companies and through business partners -- that enable customers to maximize the opportunities of an on-demand business environment.

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