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Letter from the Premier Sponsor

Intel is very pleased to have the opportunity to be a part of this collaborative industry vision focused on the future of information technology (IT) and the role that IT can play to enable business success and competitiveness through globalization, agility, efficiency, and the delivery of new business value to end customers.

We are facing what seems to be another very critical crossroad between IT and business. The client-server and PC in the '80s, and more recently the Internet in the '90s, were two critical crossroads proving that new disruptive technologies and usage models have the power to turn long-established business practices and IT structures completely upside-down and inside-out. The McKinsey Quarterly, "Ten trends to watch in 2006," makes a keen observation about how "new global industry structures are emerging." And, "in response to changing market regulation and the advent of new technologies, nontraditional business models are flourishing... Similarly, corporate borders are becoming blurrier as interlinked 'ecosystems' of suppliers, producers, and customers emerge. Even basic structural assumptions are being up-ended... Winning companies, using efficiencies gained by new structural possibilities, will capitalize on these transformations."

With the emergence of Grid, along with other key enabling technologies such as SOA (Service-Oriented Architecture), utility computing, virtualization, Web Services, and XML, as well as new transformational technology such as RFID and sensor nets, mobile devices

and handhelds, VoIP and IPTV, WiFi and WiMax, and multi-core processors, we are probably facing the most significant disruption yet.

Service-Oriented IT is about using standards-based Web Services protocols to deliver IT as a service. In combination with Grid, a new way of thinking about IT emerges and creates an essential, interlocking partnership with the business itself, which can empower your enterprise to take control of its own destiny to be profitable and competitive while simultaneously taking advantage of every applicable technology innovation that will help your business maximize its long-term success.

As corporate borders become blurred into an integrated global ecosystem, an enterprise requires IT infrastructure to mirror the naturally distributed nature of the business itself in order to deliver truly scalable, business-driven, on-demand processes and services that:

1. Increase agility through better alignment of business and IT.
2. Deliver new business value to your customers.

3. Improve operational efficiency via lower total cost of ownership and increase utilization of the infrastructure, as well as outsourcing non-core business functions.

4. Share resources to gain access to more compute, storage, and network power.

5. Collaborate with business partners and third-party service providers.

Whether you are exploring, prototyping, or actually deploying Grid and service-oriented technology in a production environment, our hope is that this publication will help you by providing some guidance and insight on an important trend that could have very profound implications on the way that you do business, and the way that you build the information technology infrastructure that runs your business.

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