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Encompass Introduces Special Membership Offer for HP Certified Professionals

Membership program launches at HP Technology Forum in Orlando

CHICAGO, October 17, 2005 – Encompass, the HP enterprise technology user group, today announced with HP the launch of a new initiative in which HP Certified Professionals will receive a special membership rate when they join the currently 10,000-member strong group.

The decision to introduce the offer was based on multiple surveys of the 100,000+ HP Certified Professionals worldwide who expressed a desire for additional access to product expertise, continuous learning and community activities. Encompass expects to increase its membership as a result of the launch of the initiative.

Two primary missions of Encompass are to encourage enterprise computing information exchange and foster professional growth by providing networking opportunities to its members. The new HP Certified Professional Program initiative will provide the user group more resources to deliver on these missions, according to Encompass president Kristi Browder.

“Encompass’ strength is its membership. Members’ intellectual capital is a core value our organization provides,” says Browder. “HP Certified Professionals joining Encompass will benefit from this vast collection of enterprise knowledge and strengthen the community by sharing their experiences and expertise.”

“Encompass is well positioned to provide these incremental technical benefits to our certified professional community,” said Susan Underhill, Vice President, HP Global Solution Partners Organization. “Through its membership programs, such as the special interest groups and local user groups, Encompass provides in-depth technical information, opportunities for professional networking, information exchange and continuous learning. This further enhances the anytime, anywhere availability of highly skilled HP sales and services professionals to serve our customers.”

The Encompass - HP Certified Professional Program initiative will be officially launched at the HP Technology Forum 2005, the largest annual gathering of HP professionals in North America. The HP Technology Forum is an event for all HP IT professionals – HP Certified Professionals; enterprise, public sector and small and mid-size business customers; HP partners; and HP's own pre-sales and support specialists. It will be held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla. from October 17 – 20.

More information on Encompass and the HP Technology Forum can be found at www.encompassUS.org/ or www.hptechnologyforum.com/. More information on the HP Certified Professional Program can be found at www.hp.com/go/certification.

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About Encompass

Encompass is a community of IT professionals who deliver information technology solutions for complex and multi-system computing environments, focusing on the HP (and legacy Compaq and Digital) technologies, including HP-UX, Enterprise Storage, Enterprise Unix, OpenVMS, Linux, and Windows. The organization promotes the unimpeded exchange of information by providing members with professional development programs, technical training, information exchanges, advocacy programs and networking opportunities. Encompass is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, USA. To learn more about Encompass, visit www.encompassUS.org.