



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate publication

ESI TECHNOLOGIES EARNS THE DISTINCTION OF CISCO SYSTEMS SILVER CERTIFIED PARTNER IN CANADA

Montreal, January 2006 — ESI Information Technologies Inc. is proud to announce that it has achieved Cisco SILVER certification in Canada. This prestigious distinction acknowledges ESI's excellence in four specific areas: consulting expertise and certification; technical support and after-sales service; customer satisfaction; and the level and scope of specialties. By meeting and exceeding Cisco's stringent quality requirements, ESI joins a select group of only six SILVER Certified Partners in Canada.

As a Cisco SILVER Partner, ESI gains access to resources that are available exclusively to Certified Partners (the *Partner Access onLine* customer satisfaction tool, priority access to Cisco's technical support staff, training, etc.), which will enable it to continue developing its skills and expertise in Cisco solutions and to offer more competitive priced solutions.

According to Eric Garceau, Director of Business Partners at Cisco Systems: "SILVER certification gives ESI a great deal of credibility and greater recognition, by underscoring the value of their solutions and expertise in the areas of networking and professional services. The SILVER designation is a guarantee to ESI's customers that they have the qualifications and skills required to successfully implement Cisco networking solutions as well as security, wireless LANs, and IP communications." According to Patrick Naoum, Vice-President of Technology and Professional Services at ESI Technologies: "In addition to strengthening our business relations with Cisco, this certification also serves to improve our customer relations, because it gives us the ability to fine-tune our knowledge of the latest Cisco technology, and thereby maximize productivity."

The SILVER certification represents Cisco Systems' recognition of ESI's efforts and involvement as a preferred Cisco partner over the past eight years, and reiterates Cisco's support for ESI's expansion and their relentless pursuit of excellence.

About ESI Technologies

ESI Technologies specializes in developing and managing profitably IT infrastructures that are efficient, flexible and secure, which answer the business needs of each client company. ESI offers consulting services and implements technological solutions which ensure the security, the availability and the performance of data, applications and critical networks.

As well, the company designs and integrates Web and Windows applications in Microsoft's .NET environment. Thanks to its proprietary Windows application **ACTION**, ESI also offers an integrated suite of management solutions that are flexible, user-friendly and scalable. ESI Technologies is based in Montreal, and has offices in Québec City and Toronto.

About Cisco Systems

Cisco Systems, Inc. is the worldwide leader in networking for the Internet. Today, networks are an essential part of business, education, government and home communications, and Cisco Internet Protocol-based (IP) networking solutions are the foundation of these networks. Information on Cisco can be found at <http://www.cisco.com/ca>. For ongoing news, please visit <http://newsroom.cisco.com>.

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