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ISITC Releases Findings of Survey on Financial Crisis
-Member firms hit by decreased headcount and reduced IT spending
-Survey respondents support increased government oversight to resolve financial crisis

Boston, March 9, 2009 – ISITC (International Securities Association for Institutional Trade Communication), the industry trade group focused on standards in transaction processing and related communications, announced the results of a member survey focused on the current crisis in the financial sector and the challenges ahead for the industry. The issues covered by the survey will also be the focus of the upcoming ISITC 15th Annual Industry Forum and Vendor Show which is entitled “*Extreme Makeover: Financial Services Edition – Finding the tools for the future,*” and will take place in March.

Genevy Dimitrion, Chair of ISITC, says, “ISITC is keen to capture the insight and ideas of our members on the important issues facing financial firms today. We believe that this information provides a snapshot of the state of the financial services markets that will contribute to a more informed discussion of what is happening within the industry.”

ISITC asked respondents to identify whether their firms had been affected by the crisis in four major areas including: reduced headcount, reduced IT budgets, increased volatility and/or increased compliance requirements. Of these, the majority of respondents identified reduced headcount and reduced IT budgets as having the most impact (74% and 69% respectively), while 25% noted that their firms had been affected by increased compliance requirements, and 23% said their firms have been affected by increased trading volumes. Additionally, 46% of respondents agreed that market volatility is creating clearing and settlement challenges for their firms.

The survey results showed that responding members believe that government should take a stronger approach in regulating certain aspects of the financial markets. Sixty-one percent of respondents cited increased government oversight as more effective in resolving the financial crisis, while only 14% suggested that decreased government oversight would be more effective. In particular, 81% of respondents support regulation of pricing agencies (as opposed to 14% against regulation.) Seventy-six percent support new limits on leverage, and 74% support re-instituting the uptick rule for short sales.

Much of this focus on regulation was the result of respondents recognizing the need for the industry to regain the public's trust. Comments such as "loss of faith in our markets," "restoring confidence" and "delivering quality products in a challenging time" were common.

Looking forward, the first priority identified by respondents for their firms is operational risk management, followed by cost reduction and increasing efficiency in order to meet client needs.

Respondents comprised a cross-section of ISITC members, including middle and upper-middle managers, from all segments of the securities processing industry, including asset managers, broker dealers, investment bankers and custodians, as well as the technology firms serving these industries.

About ISITC

Comprised of 1,500 individuals from 350 companies worldwide, ISITC provides members with the means to revolutionize the securities-trading process. ISITC brings together broker/dealers, custodians, investment managers, vendors/utilities and other industry professionals to develop proposed standards that are designed to enhance efficiencies in trade processing and related communications. Through collaboration, ISITC's members reduce inefficiencies, lower risk, and build shareholder value while developing and promoting the global securities industry. For more information on ISITC please visit our website: www.isitc.org