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Private-Sector Security Leaders Join Forces Against Terrorism

– Conference’s Real-World Threat Exercises Highlight Need for Cross-Industry Information Sharing –

MIAMI, October 14, 2004 – More than 200 top-level security executives from a wide variety of industries met in Miami on October 11-14 to take part in exercises designed to improve early detection of, and response to, cyber- and physical security threats and vulnerabilities facing critical infrastructure in the U.S. Keynote speeches were delivered by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Assistant Secretary Robert Liscouski and Special Assistant to the Secretary for the Private Sector, Alfonso Martinez-Fonts.

Participants – from the financial services, telecommunications, information technology, energy and other sectors – are all members of industry-focused Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISAC) created in partnership with DHS to foster public-private collaboration in the fight to prevent and mitigate terrorist attacks. “Since 85% of the critical infrastructure in the U.S. is owned and operated by the private sector, coordination across industries is vital to our nation’s security,” added Lynn Constantini of the Electric ISAC.

Sponsored by the ISAC Council, the 2004 ISAC Congress featured tabletop exercises led by The Guidry Group. These exercises simulated cyber- and physical attack and threat scenarios that would require unprecedented levels of cross-industry collaboration and information sharing to ensure business continuity.

“The sophisticated terrorist event scenarios included in the tabletop exercises represent the worst fears of the most knowledgeable experts from each industry,” said Financial Services ISAC Chairperson Suzanne Gorman. “On 9/11, the lack of information sharing between sectors prevented us from connecting the interrelated events that preceded the attacks. Practicing how we would respond within our own companies, our own industries and across industries shows us that operating outside of our traditional silos is the only way to put all of the pieces together in time to prevent an attack,” she added.

According to Guidry Group Chairman and CEO Michael Guidry, “When top security experts from America’s leading industries join forces with the federal government to share technology, data and best practices, we have the power to identify and respond to threats before they escalate into devastating attacks.”

About the ISAC Council

The mission of the Information Sharing and Analysis Centers Council (ISAC Council) is to advance the cyber- and physical security of the critical infrastructures of North America by establishing and maintaining a framework for valuable interaction between and among the ISACs and with government. For further information, visit www.isaccouncil.com.