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PlatformOne Partners with IBM for Technology Hosting Services

Atlanta, GA – August 12, 2003 – PlatformOne, a leading provider of Human Resources Business Process Outsourcing (HR-BPO) services, today announced that it has partnered with IBM for technology hosting services.

PlatformOne offers HR Business Processing Outsourcing (BPO) solutions that include HR Technology Infrastructure, HR Administrative Services, and HR Professional Support to mid-market companies, defined as companies with 500 to 15,000 employees. As a key component of its services, PlatformOne agrees to manage all the human resources information systems and technology infrastructure on behalf of its clients. Continuous up time and system availability are mandatory requirements for PlatformOne to meet its service commitments to clients. To insure these requirements will continue to be met, PlatformOne turned to a recognized leader in the industry, IBM Global Services.

The two companies just completed the project, which duplicates PlatformOne's entire technology environment at IBM's data center in Lithia Springs, Georgia. As a result, PlatformOne now has two identical technology infrastructures, housed by two separate hosting providers, at two different hosting locations. BlueStar Solutions, PlatformOne's initial technology hosting partner, delivers its services from Columbia, South Carolina. PlatformOne, with headquarters in Atlanta, felt it was important to have one hosting provider local to its main service center.

"Beginning as early as this October, we will have our first client implemented and live on the IBM hosting environment," said Ray Drummond, PlatformOne's chief operations officer. "When the transition of services to PlatformOne is complete, over forty thousand (40,000) lives will be served by our HR professional teams using this IBM hosted platform."

"PlatformOne differentiates itself from other HR-BPO providers in two key areas – superior service and better value. Our commitments to specific service levels for our clients demand that we safeguard, at all costs, against service downtime due to an infrastructure problem. With our level of service activity anticipated to increase dramatically, we required faster servers and a redundant computing architecture that insures the highest availability in the industry," said Mr. Drummond. "We also determined through our evaluation of several alternatives that IBM's model provided us with better value for the comparable cost. Our investment in IBM's hosting solution will allow us to pass better value on to our customers."



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In the coming weeks, PlatformOne's HR professional staff will be supported by the best managed data center, system architecture, and computing platform available in the market. The IBM hosting environment will provide the latest backup, recovery and security innovations, as well as take advantage of the latest server, network, and data storage technology provided by IBM Global Services. IBM's data center 24/7 monitoring capability and the high availability architecture will ensure continuous uptime. As a result, PlatformOne clients are now assured the world-class 24/7 services they desire.

About SCI Companies and PlatformOne

PlatformOne is an innovator and leader in the delivery of state-of-the-art Human Resources solutions. Evolving over 18 years, PlatformOne offers HR Business Processing Outsourcing (BPO) solutions that include HR Technology Infrastructure, HR Administrative Services, and HR Professional Support. Our comprehensive HR solutions, when combined with our world-class people, processes, and technology produce efficient, consistent, and cost-effective results for our clients.

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