

**NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BITS OPENS NEW FINANCIAL SERVICES SECURITY LAB**

*Strategic partnership between financial institutions and technology providers further strengthens the safety of online banking for consumers and businesses*

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**WASHINGTON, DC, July 28<sup>th</sup> 1999** -- Today BITS, the technology group for The Financial Services Roundtable, officially opened the BITS Financial Services Security Laboratory at a grand opening ceremony in Reston, Va. Senior executives from the financial services and technology industries, along with government officials, attended the opening at the headquarters of Global Integrity Corporation, a subsidiary of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC).

The Security Lab will enable financial services companies and technology providers to work cooperatively to maintain the highest security standards for electronic banking and commerce. The major objectives of the BITS Security Laboratory, operated and hosted by Global Integrity, are early product influence, risk reduction, cost reduction, and security functionality.

“The new BITS Financial Services Security Lab is a bold and important step to ensure comprehensive security in electronic banking and commerce,” said Robert W. Gillespie, Chairman and CEO, KeyCorp, and Chairman of The Financial Services Roundtable. “As more bank customers are choosing online financial transactions, security issues are becoming more prominent,” he continued, adding, “The BITS Laboratory has been ‘in the works’ for almost two years and is the financial services industry’s latest initiative to ensure that safety standards for electronic commerce and banking continue to be strengthened as new technologies are developed and the volume of digital commerce keeps growing.”

The grand opening featured remarks by the Honorable Robert F. Bennett, US Senate, and the Honorable Sam Nunn, as well as other prominent industry leaders and dignitaries. Executives from major technology provider companies were also present.

Richard Clarke, National Coordinator of the National Security Council; Jerry Hultin, Under Secretary of the Navy; and Gregory Baer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury also offered comments. Later today, from 5 to 7 p.m., a Congressional briefing and reception will be held on Capitol Hill.

Scott McNealy, Chairman and CEO, Sun Microsystems, Inc., has said, “Sun strongly supports testing against open standards. The BITS Lab process will provide for cooperation among vendors and banks while protecting what each considers to be the proprietary aspects of their technology.”

Mike Dusche, Product Manager, Smart Card for Windows, Microsoft Corporation, has said, “Microsoft supports the BITS Security Lab because we are committed to developing, testing and applying technology that further strengthens the safety and security of the electronic banking experience for consumers.”

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Catherine Allen, CEO of BITS, explained that, "The BITS Security Lab will test security features and capabilities of products in both stand-alone and distributed environments for select PC operating environments, browsers, servers, and applications software used for PC banking; anti-virus software, firewalls; and end-to-end security systems." She added, "Products will be tested for their ability to meet specific criteria pertaining to security attributes such as authentication, integrity, confidentiality, privacy, auditability and authorization."

"Global Integrity is delighted to be working with the BITS organization on this landmark initiative and looks forward to helping the financial services industry strengthen the environment of electronic commerce," said Harvey Weiss, President and CEO of Global Integrity Corporation.

A BITS Tested Process, including a BITS Tested Mark, will be implemented to evaluate security-related features of products against established criteria. For financial institutions and technology providers alike, the BITS Tested Process at the Security Laboratory will provide an unbiased third-party evaluation. The BITS Tested Mark will be given upon successful completion of the testing cycle. Mark issuance will be posted on the BITS Web site.

### **About BITS**

BITS, the technology group for The Financial Services Roundtable, was created in 1996 to foster the growth and development of electronic banking and e-commerce in an open environment that will encourage greater choice and efficiency in financial software, access devices, networks and processing capabilities for the benefit of financial institutions and their customers. BITS promotes safety and soundness in payments systems and in electronic banking products. BITS is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of 14 Chairmen and CEOs of the largest U.S. bank holding companies as well as representatives of the American Bankers Association (ABA) and the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA). For more information, visit the BITS Web site at [www.bitsinfo.org](http://www.bitsinfo.org).

### **About Global Integrity**

Global Integrity Corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). It focuses on the rapidly growing worldwide business of enabling e-commerce through the information protection market. Headquartered in Reston, Va., Global Integrity provides a full complement of information protection, electronic commerce security, consulting and engineering services to global financial institutions and major corporations with electronic operations worldwide. More information can be found at Global's Web site at [www.globalintegrity.com](http://www.globalintegrity.com).

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