

BITS

FINANCIAL SERVICES
R O U N D T A B L E

For Immediate Release
April 30, 2007
Contact: Cheryl Charles
BITS
cheryl@fsround.org
202-589-2444

DUANE ACKERMAN RECEIVES BITS 2007 LEADERSHIP AWARD
Honored for Addressing Critical Infrastructure Interdependencies

Washington, D.C. April 30, 2007 — Former Chairman and CEO of BellSouth Corporation, F. Duane Ackerman received the 2007 BITS Leadership Award in a ceremony in Boca Raton at the Spring Meeting of BITS and The Financial Services Roundtable. “Duane Ackerman is a visionary leader whose stellar career includes many landmark accomplishments. Among those, he recognized early on the interdependencies between the financial services industry and the telecommunications industry. His leadership has helped us maintain the resilience and continuity of both critical infrastructures,” said James H. Blanchard, retired CEO and Chairman of the Board, Synovus, when bestowing the award on Mr. Ackerman.

Prior to its acquisition by AT&T, F. Duane Ackerman served for many years as Chairman and CEO of BellSouth Corporation. Mr. Ackerman has been a champion of telecommunications industry cooperation to strengthen the resiliency of the nation’s critical financial services infrastructure. He is a leader in addressing interdependencies between the telecommunications and financial services sectors and has served in a leadership role at the national level through his participation in a range of organizations, including as Chairman of the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC). An integral part of BITS’ Telecommunications Resiliency and Business Continuity initiative, Mr. Ackerman took a strong leadership role in bringing CEOs from both the telecommunications and financial services sectors to talk one-on-one about ways to improve resiliency in the years following 9/11. He chaired the Council on Competitiveness at a time when BITS conducted a study of the financial services sector’s approaches to security. He was a champion of a major pilot with the Alliance for Telecommunications Solutions (ATIS) to improve diversity assurance and increase resilience, in cooperation with financial institutions and the Federal Reserve.

“We are delighted to be able to recognize Duane Ackerman’s persistent and visionary leadership. The nation is stronger and more secure as a result of his leadership,” said Catherine A. Allen, BITS CEO.

The BITS Leadership Award recognizes outstanding leadership and contributions to BITS and The Financial Services Roundtable, the financial services industry, and the nation. The award acknowledges excellence in leadership. BITS Leadership Award recipients are innovative leaders who are highly respected by their peers and whose contributions have clear benefits to BITS and Roundtable member financial institutions.

About BITS

BITS was created in 1996 to foster the growth and development of electronic financial services and e-commerce for the benefit of financial institutions and their customers. A nonprofit industry consortium that shares membership with The Financial Services Roundtable, BITS seeks to sustain consumer confidence and trust by ensuring the security, privacy and integrity of financial transactions. BITS works as a strategic brain trust to provide intellectual capital and address emerging issues where financial services, technology and commerce intersect, acting quickly to address problems and galvanize the industry. BITS’ activities are driven by the CEOs and their appointees—CIOs, CTOs, Vice Chairmen and Executive Vice Presidents—who make up the BITS Advisory Board and BITS Advisory Council. For more information, go to www.bitsinfo.org.

About The Financial Services Roundtable

The Financial Services Roundtable represents 100 of the largest integrated financial services companies providing banking, insurance, and investment products and services to the American consumer. Member companies participate through the Chief Executive Officer and other senior executives nominated by the CEO. Roundtable member companies provide fuel for America's economic engine, accounting directly for \$65.8 trillion in managed assets, \$1 trillion in revenue, and 2.4 million jobs.

###