

Microsoft awards \$1 Million to California Science Center

Microsoft Chief Operation Officer to announce software grant to Science Center

LOS ANGELES – Sept. 25, 2006 – Microsoft is donating software valued at \$1 million to support the California Science Center Foundation with its mission of promoting science learning. The gift is distinguished as the Science Center’s first software award and is the largest in value received from a technology company. The Microsoft grant will be used to implement an infrastructure upgrade, ensuring state-of-the-art software for the California Science Center, and benefiting all facets of the only organization in the nation which combines a regional Science Center, neighborhood elementary school and onsite teacher development facility.

“The California Science Center is a wonderful asset to Los Angeles and the entire region,” said Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. “Microsoft’s donation will help to ensure that the Science Center’s facilities are robust and continue to provide a world-class educational experience for Southern California’s young people.”

Microsoft and the California Science Center plan to implement the software grant to achieve two goals for the facility: to upgrade existing exhibit, education and administrative software; and to upgrade hardware in the Wallis Annenberg Building for Science Learning and Innovation classrooms.

“Microsoft is committed to serving as a responsible leader in Southern California by supporting education in science and technology at the California Science Center,” said Kevin Turner, Microsoft’s chief operating officer, who will be on-site at the science center on Friday, Sept. 29 to announce the software donation. “Students who are able to enrich their education here are more likely to become interested in science and technology and develop into the future innovators of America. Microsoft supports science and technology education initiatives and is proud to partner with the California Science Center.”

The donation is part of Microsoft and its employees’ commitment to local communities, donating more than \$11.8 million in cash, curriculum and software to Los Angeles organizations since 2003, including grants to other youth-focused organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club Alliance of Los Angeles.

“We deeply appreciate Microsoft’s contributions to the California Science Center,” said Jeffrey Rudolph, president and chief executive officer. “The grant will assist with the upgrade of our facility’s software infrastructure and help us tremendously in achieving our mission of stimulating curiosity and inspiring science learning.”

Microsoft will continue to collaborate with the California Science Center as it will host the kick-off event of the Los Angeles Get Net Safe tour, a seminar series sponsored by Microsoft and 10 partner organizations to help educate and raise awareness about online security and Internet safety to children, teens, parents, businesses and adults 50+. Microsoft is scheduled to bring the 10 city stop security tour to Los Angeles mid-

November, and the California Science Center provides an ideal venue for Internet safety education. For more information, please visit <http://www.staysafe.org/>.

“The science center is already a focal point for the educational community here in Los Angeles,” said Sandi Thomas, general manager of Microsoft’s Southern California District and member of the California Science Center’s board of directors. “Through upcoming initiatives such as the Get Net Safe tour, Microsoft is committed to collaborating with the California Science Center to help people of all ages in southern California learn more about topics like technology innovation and online safety to protect themselves.”

Kevin Turner, Sandi Thomas and Jeffrey Rudolph will announce the grant at a press conference Friday, Sept. 29 at 10 a.m. at the California Science Center located at 700 State Drive in Exposition Park, close to downtown Los Angeles. The grant announcement will include a science project conducted by local students at the Science Center School.

About the California Science Center

The California Science Center is a destination where learners of all ages discover the science in everyday life with free admission to more than 100 interactive exhibits. Permanent exhibit galleries, including World of Life, Creative World and the SKETCH Foundation Gallery Air and Space Exhibits, explore life science, human innovation and powered flight. Discovery rooms provide young children with hands-on activities. Visitors can always find something new in the Weingart Special exhibit Gallery and on the Science Center’s IMAX seven-story IMAX screen. For general information, call 323.SCIENCE (323.724-3623) or visit the Science Center website at www.californiasciencecenter.org.

About Microsoft

Microsoft and its employees have long recognized the importance of being engaged in supporting communities around the world. Last year the company donated \$69 million in cash and \$331 million in software to 12,000 nonprofit organizations. A majority of the company’s community investments go toward matching employee contributions of cash and time and in support of Unlimited Potential, a global program that supports community technology centers in IT skills training. Unlimited Potential is part of the company’s commitment to broaden digital inclusion and enhance workforce development to a quarter of a billion people underserved by technology by 2010.

More information on Microsoft’s community investments can be found at <http://www.microsoft.com/unlimitedpotential>.

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ “MSFT”) is the worldwide leader in software, services and Internet technologies for personal and business computing. The company offers a wide range of products and services designed to empower people through great software — any time, any place and on any device.

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Note to editors: Microsoft Chief Operation Officer Kevin Turner and Sandi Thomas, General Manager, Southern Calif., will announce this \$ 1 million software grant to the California Science Center at a news conference on Sept. 29th. The news conference will take place in the Science Center's Sky Court at 10 a.m.

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