



INTELLIGENT COMMUNITY FORUM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Intelligent Community Forum Announces “Smart 21” Communities, Finalists for Top Seven Intelligent Communities of 2006

NEW YORK (November 18, 2005) –**The Intelligent Community Forum** announced its list of 21 communities that are now finalists for its Top Seven Intelligent Communities of 2006 honors. The “Smart 21,” as ICF calls them, were selected from formal submissions by communities large and small from August through October. The announcement of these 21 finalists is the first major step in the selection of the Top Seven Intelligent Communities of the Year, which are models for the development of prosperous local economies based on broadband and information technology.

On January 17, ICF will announce the Top Seven of 2006 at the annual Pacific Telecommunications Council conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. (www.ptc06.org)

On June 9, 2006, ICF will select one of its Top Seven to be the Intelligent Community of the Year during its annual "Building the Broadband Economy" conference in New York City. This community will succeed Mitaka, Japan, which was ICF's 2005 honoree. The Intelligent Community Awards are presented in four categories, with the other awards going to the Intelligent Community Visionary, Intelligent Community Technology and Intelligent Building of the Year. "Building the Broadband Economy" is produced in association with New York's Polytechnic University, home to three Nobel Prize recipients.

In alphabetical order the “Smart 21” are:

Adel, Georgia, USA

Burlington, Ontario, Canada

Cleveland, Ohio, USA

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Evora, Portugal

Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

Ichikawa, Japan

London, United Kingdom

Manchester, United Kingdom

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Monmouth, Illinois, USA

Nunavut, Canada

Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario Canada

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA

Gangnam District, Seoul, Korea

Spanish Fork, Utah, USA

Sudbury, Ontario, Canada

Taipei, Taiwan

Tianjin, China

Vasteras, Sweden

Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

2006 Theme: Sustainability

In addition to analysis of their submissions, the selection of each year's Smart 21, Top Seven and Intelligent Community of the Year is guided by a theme. For 2006, the theme is 'sustainability.' According to ICF Chairman, John G. Jung, “For Intelligent Communities,

sustainability means development efforts that improve the quality of life and increase the economic prosperity of a community over the long term. Sustainability is the opposite of the "quick fix." Can the community continue to deliver new and improved applications to end-users well into the future? Will the project continue to yield economic benefits far beyond the initial investment and implementation? Sustainability is the product of careful planning, consistent commitment and a relentless focus on achieving goals and creating a culture of use for the applications that result from the broadband infrastructure."

Speaking about the Smart 21, Mr. Jung added, "This group of 21 leading communities represents an important step forward, in ICF's view. It was not so long ago that broadband deployment was new and communities debated its importance in economic development. Now we see broadband being deployed at amazing speed around the globe and virtual agreement among governments on its importance. The goal now is to use broadband to establish sustainable growth and social cohesion in a variety of ways."

About ICF

ICF (www.intelligentcommunity.org) is a nonprofit think tank that focuses on the creation of prosperous local economies in the "broadband economy" of the 21st Century. From global networks connecting business centers to DSL and cable modems linking homes, broadband is revolutionizing business, government, education, work and lifestyles. By opening markets, it creates new jobs and gives new focus and hope to communities in transition. By making possible the export of services and skills, it puts workers into wage and skill competition with people around the globe. It makes government more transparent and responsive to the needs of citizens, while creating new "digital divide" concerns. ICF conducts research, hosts events, publishes newsletters and presents awards to help communities understand the opportunities and challenges of the broadband economy, and to promote best practices in economic and social development.

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