



For Immediate Release

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COLUMBIA GORGE TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE PROMOTES GORGE AREA BUSINESSES

Hood River, Oregon December 4th, 2006 - The Columbia Gorge Technology Alliance (Hood River, OR), a growing cluster of technology companies in the Washington-Oregon region of the Columbia River, today announced that several of its members are building beneficial business affiliations within local communities by providing services to each other and to their customers.

The GTA, formed in 2004, is dedicated to promoting the Columbia River Gorge as not only a great place to live, but also one with distinctive advantages for developing and relocating businesses. Most GTA member companies promote a “work hard, play hard” attitude at the heart of their value system, which brings a healthy commitment to local businesses and to the community. The GTA strives to encourage business, community, and technology growth by acting as a support group for companies interested in starting business and/or moving to the Columbia River Gorge region.

Companies like Insitu, Inc. (Bingen, WA), Innovative Composite Engineering (Bingen WA), Real Carbon LLC (Hood River, OR), and Custom Interface (Bingen, WA) are only a few of the 60 + members of the GTA that work together on innovative products and solutions for their customers located across the world.

Members of the GTA boast some of the most cutting edge technologies in the country. Dr. Steven M. Sliwa, Insitu’s CEO and President states: “Our affiliation with the GTA has been excellent for Insitu because it helps to provide a technology resource network of key suppliers that help us to maintain our agility and quality.” Insitu is a founding member of the GTA and currently employs over 200 people.

Innovative Composite Engineering (ICE) is another member of the GTA and is one of the first technology companies to settle in the Columbia Gorge in 1989 and played an instrumental role in developing Insitu’s ScanEagle airframe in 2000. Steve Maier,

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founder, CEO, and President of ICE is quick to point out, "ICE's business services are well received by customers all over the world. Although only 5% of ICE's current business is local, membership with the GTA has created opportunities for us to develop new products for other local companies." Maier adds, "The GTA has done a wonderful job of networking local technology companies and letting the world know how great of a place the gorge is for locating technology companies."

Real Carbon LLC, is another example of a local company that serves a growing customer base in the gorge region and beyond. Real Carbon's founder and CEO, Mike Graham states: "The UAV market served by companies like Insitu is a growing and important market segment for Real Carbon LLC. We provide an increasing array of UAV products for customers like Insitu." Mr. Graham adds, "The GTA provides a networking opportunity for members and others in the communities in which we are located. In providing employment for Gorge residents and a source of revenue for local businesses, GTA members generate an important source of economic growth in the area. We have been pleased to play our part in that effort."

Custom Interface has been providing technical prototyping and manufacturing services to a large number of companies for over 9 years, and not just locally. In fact, at last count Custom Interface served over 35 active customers located around the Pacific Northwest. Nancy White, founder and President compliments Insitu "as one of her company's fastest growing customers." She continues, "Insitu has provided an excellent base of business for many local companies. Our relationship with them has been rewarding and we continue to grow our business with them and other customers as we strategically increase our resources and business network." Ms. White further states, "As a result of opportunities that surfaced during GTA networking events, we diversified services and the result has been extremely healthy growth with many customers."

About the Columbia Gorge Technology Alliance

Columbia River Gorge Technology Alliance was started in 2004 as a way to promote a growing cluster of technology companies and build new business alliances that would strengthen the surrounding communities. This allows local businesses to leverage technology and bring awareness to common initiatives. The resulting synergy has built a foundation on which existing businesses network, expand, and develop new ways to contribute to each other and the communities in which they are located. A growing number of technology savvy "lifestyle" entrepreneurs are moving to the Columbia River Gorge. For more information see www.crgta.org.

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About Insitu

Insitu, located in Bingen, Washington, develops Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) for commercial and military applications. Insitu introduced the first Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) to cross the Atlantic Ocean and has partnered with Boeing to develop *ScanEagle* and Fugro Airborne Surveys to develop *GeoRanger*. For more information about the company, see www.insitu.com.

About Innovative Composite Engineering

ICE designs and manufactures structural carbon composite parts for a global customer base. Products include space systems for NASA, defensive military hardware for Lockheed, General Dynamics & Boeing, oil & gas down hole tools for Baker-Hughes helping make the US a little less dependent on foreign oil, surveying equipment, thermally stabilized carbon structures for lasers, precision measurement systems and space telescopes, primary flight structures for Insitu & other UAV customers, carbon furniture for Polo Ralph Lauren, automotive components for most of the European auto makers, carbon structures for America's cup yachts, and recreational components for bicycling and windsurfing. For more information about ICE, visit www.innovativecomposite.com.

About Real Carbon LLC

Real Carbon LLC, located in Hood River, Oregon, manufactures a wide variety of custom carbon parts designed to meet its customer's specifications. The UAV market served by Insitu is a growing and important market segment for Real Carbon LLC. The company, founded in 1988, currently makes an array of UAV parts for customers like Insitu. Many of these UAV parts feature embedded Electro Magnetic Interference and Radio Frequency shielding. For more information about the company, see www.realcarbon.com.

About Custom Interface

Custom Interface (CI) is a 9 year old company located in Bingen, WA. CI provides technical support, prototyping, and contract manufacturing services to approximately 35 original equipment manufacturers located in the Pacific Northwest. CI is also a founding member of Columbia Gorge Technology Alliance and sits on the advisory boards of two local school systems. For more information about CI, visit www.custominterface.net.

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