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**Commuters to Take Back Time and Money During Telework Week 2012;
Expected to Save Millions in Commuting Costs**

*Telework Week 2012, the Second-Annual Initiative, Encourages Any and All to Pledge to Telework
March 5-9, 2012*

ALEXANDRIA, Va., November 17, 2011 – Telework ExchangeSM, a public-private partnership focused on demonstrating the tangible value of telework today announced Telework Week 2012, taking place March 5-9, 2012. Telework Week is the second-annual initiative encouraging government agencies, businesses, and individuals to pledge to telework during the week of March 5-9, 2012. Interested participants can visit www.teleworkexchange.com/teleworkweek to pledge to telework, as well as calculate potential commuter cost savings and environmental impact during Telework Week 2012. In 2011, nearly 40,000 individuals and organizations pledged to telework during Telework Week, collectively saving \$2.7 million in commuting costs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1,818 tons.

“Telework Week 2012 is an opportunity to highlight the many benefits of telework – enabling us to enhance workplace efficiency, improve the environment, ensure our safety, and improve our quality of life,” said Rep. John Sarbanes (D-Md.), author of the *Telework Enhancement Act of 2010*.

According to a recent [report](#) by The Texas Transportation Institute, the average U.S. commuter spends 34 hours a year in traffic – and by 2020, that number will increase to 41. Telework offers a critical solution to the nation’s traffic gridlock. Telework Week 2012 demonstrates an opportunity to reduce the amount of traffic on the road, decrease the environmental impact caused by commuting, lessen wear and tear on public transportation, and save

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commuters time and money. Specifically for organizations, Telework Week is a powerful tool for business operations. Telework Week supports workforce productivity, enhanced recruitment and retention, reduced real estate, and increased operational efficiency and continuity.

Telework is an initiative at the forefront of focus at Federal, state/local, and private sector organizations across the globe. With the one-year anniversary of the *Telework Enhancement Act of 2010* approaching, Telework Week offers Federal agencies an opportunity to meet legislative mandates by testing telework programs in a pilot situation to ensure requirements are met, in addition to putting business continuity exercises to the test. The initiative is supported by Cisco, which provides a variety of mobile collaboration solutions that can help individuals telework anywhere, on any device, with video, voice and document sharing capabilities.

“For the second year, Cisco is very excited to support the Telework Exchange in hosting Telework Week in March 2012,” said Patrick Finn, vice president, U.S. Federal Organization, Cisco. “The benefits of telework in government are far-reaching and multifarious, affecting those at all levels and in all roles. Through our involvement with Telework Week, we hope to educate and inspire participants in all stages of telework planning to shift into high gear for program execution. Approximately 70 percent of Cisco’s workforce relies on mobile collaboration, so we understand the value teleworking brings to organizations by increasing productivity and field effectiveness, and making smarter use of human capital.”

“Telework has tremendous potential to transform the way government works and to support a modern and adaptive workplace – it empowers the entire Federal workforce to be mobile and agile for the 21st Century economy,” said Martha Johnson, Administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). “As the Federal government’s workplace solutions provider, GSA is leveraging its expertise to help advance the mobility of the government’s workforce and support teleworking initiatives.”

“According to Telework Week 2011, if all full-time wage and salary workers in the U.S. telework two days a week for one year, they would collectively save more than \$215 billion in commuting costs,” said Cindy Auten, general manager for Telework Exchange. “That’s important in this economy. The goal for 2012 is to take Telework Week to the max. Telework savings are substantial, and we want to demonstrate not only *why* to do it, but *how* to do it.”

Interested individuals and organizations can visit www.teleworkexchange.com/teleworkweek to pledge to telework and to calculate potential commuter cost and environmental savings. There is no cost to pledge. In addition, Telework Exchange and Cisco will host a series of Webcasts throughout the Telework Week program. The first Telework Week Webcast, on January 19, 2012, will focus on management considerations and IT requirements needed to prepare for Telework Week 2012. Registration is free and is available at www.teleworkexchange.com/teleworkweek. To learn more about this year's program, including upcoming activities, visit the Telework Week website. Following Telework Week, Telework Exchange and Cisco will release a comprehensive report detailing the total impact of the Telework Week initiative on commuting costs.

About Telework Exchange

Telework Exchange is a public-private partnership focused on demonstrating the tangible value of telework and serving the emerging educational and communication requirements of the teleworker community. The organization facilitates communication among teleworkers, telework managers, and IT professionals. For more information on Telework Exchange, please visit www.teleworkexchange.com.