



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Whitney Hewson
Telework Exchange
(703) 883-9000 ext. 130
whewson@teleworkexchange.com

**Commuters Pledge to Take Back Time and Money During Telework Week,
February 14-18, 2011**

Nationwide Initiative to Save Nearly \$1 Million in Commuting Costs for Pledges to Date

ALEXANDRIA, Va., February 8, 2011 – Telework ExchangeSM, a public-private partnership focused on demonstrating the tangible value of telework, is gearing up for National Telework Week on February 14-18, 2011. Telework Week, underwritten by Cisco, is a nationwide initiative encouraging government agencies, organizations, and individuals to pledge to telework at www.teleworkexchange.com/teleworkweek. Already, more than 14,500 individuals and organizations have pledged to telework during Telework Week, collectively saving nearly \$1 million in commuting costs and reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions by 647 tons.

If these Telework Week pledges were to telework one day a week for one year, they would collectively save more than \$26 million in commuting costs. According to the Texas Transportation Institute's 2010 Urban Mobility Report¹, congestion costs continue to rise in the United States from \$115 billion in 2009 compared to \$85 billion in 2000. Telework offers a key solution for the nation's traffic gridlock.

"Work is what you do, not where you are," said GSA Administrator Martha Johnson. "Telework is revolutionizing the way government works, helping us to be more mobile, more agile, more flexible, more productive, and deliver better results for the American people. Telework Week plays an important role in this by giving employers and employees an opportunity to test their telework capacity, identify possible gaps in their IT backbone, and build their mobile work muscle."

¹Texas Transportation Institute, 2010 Urban Mobility Report,
http://tti.tamu.edu/documents/mobility_report_2010.pdf

“Telework improves recruitment and retention, improves emergency response preparedness, and saves taxpayer money. We just had another snow event in late January where teleworking enabled thousands of Federal employees to keep working even when roads were covered in ice and snow,” said Congressman Gerry Connolly. “Telework Week provides an opportunity for managers and employees to pilot telework initiatives in their workplaces and ensure the efficacy of their IT infrastructure to handle telecommuting. It also provides a good opportunity for managers to test and update their business continuity plans to ensure readiness in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.”

In addition to the impact of telework for commuters, Telework Week is a powerful tool for business operations. Telework Week supports workforce productivity, recruitment and retention, operational efficiency, and continuity. Given the recent passage of the Telework Enhancement Act of 2010, Telework Week provides a platform for the Federal government to build and test telework programs, as well as test the IT infrastructure during a more widespread telework situation.

“Telework Week is a great opportunity for government agencies and organizations from different industries to realize the business impact of working remotely,” said Patrick Finn, Vice President for Cisco’s Federal Sales group. “The more control employees have over their time, the more they will be able to stay focused on key mission priorities and complete their tasks. Through the use of voice, video, and data-based technologies, we are making the IT infrastructure ready to take on the challenge of helping a remote workforce stay productive, effective, and motivated.”

“The Telework Week goals are simple – encourage any and all managers and employees to try telework during Telework Week,” said Cindy Auten, General Manager, Telework Exchange. “Further, Telework Week will put remote infrastructures to the test. Employers can push the capabilities of remote systems to see if they need to make any adjustments down the road. From a cultural standpoint, research shows that as more people try telework, the more they see the value that it has for employee satisfaction and productivity as well as agency efficiency.”

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. Following Telework Week, Telework Exchange will release a comprehensive report detailing the total impact of the Telework Week initiative on commuting costs nationwide.

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.