

For Immediate Release

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\$28,000 in Rewards Paid to Whistleblowers by SIIA

Eight reward payouts for piracy settlements issued in April

Washington, DC – May 5, 2010 – The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), the principal trade association for the software and digital content industries, announced today that it paid \$28,000 in April to eight sources who reported cases of corporate end-user software piracy to SIIA.

Through its Anti-Piracy Reward Program, SIIA offers rewards – ranging from \$500 for a settlement of \$10,000 to \$1 million for cases with settlement amounts over \$20 million – to eligible individuals who report verifiable instances of corporate software piracy. SIIA pursues cases of software and content piracy taking place within an organization. This occurs when software has been installed or content is being copied and/or distributed by an organization without the proper license from the publisher.

According to Keith Kupferschmid, Senior Vice President for Intellectual Property Policy and Enforcement, “We value the extensive cooperation and information provided by our sources. The reward program is a significant way in which we ensure that we obtain the most accurate and reliable information and reward individuals for doing the right thing.”

Two of the companies that were reported to and subsequently pursued by SIIA included National Customer Engineering (NCE) Group, a data center services firm operating in the United States and the United Kingdom; and Whitehead, Incorporated, a residential and commercial real estate firm based in Rockford, Illinois. NCE Group found themselves the subject of a SIIA investigation when they were using more copies of software than they were licensed to use. NCE settled with SIIA for \$130,000 – 3 times the value of the unlicensed software. Whitehead was investigated by SIIA when the source reported that they routinely bought one copy of software and installed it throughout the company. This practice came back to haunt them and they ended up settling SIIA’s infringement claims for \$103,000.

SIIA’s Corporate Anti-Piracy program is driven by source reports, involving a person referred to as “the source” who notifies SIIA that a particular company is using illegal software. Sources can contact SIIA about a company’s alleged non-compliance in three ways:

- by e-mail (at piracy@siaa.net)
- by phone (1.800.388.7478)
- or by completing SIIA’s web-based piracy reporting form (www.siaa.net/piracy/report).

Usually the source is a current or former employee of the firm, an SIIA member company representative, vendor, or other person with first-hand knowledge about a company’s IT operations.

Since the initiation of SIIA’s anti-piracy reward program in 2003, no trade association has given out more rewards or larger amounts per reward, in an effort to thwart software and content piracy.

About SIIA

The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industries. SIIA provides global services in government relations, business development, corporate education and intellectual property protection to 500 leading software and information companies. For further information, visit: www.siiia.net.

About SIIA's Corporate Anti-Piracy Hotline/Reporting Mechanisms

Individuals interested in learning more about the SIIA Anti-Piracy Reward Program or in submitting a piracy report can do so through SIIA's hotline: 800.388.7478. SIIA's Piracy Report Form is available at www.siiia.net/piracy.report.

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