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For Immediate Release
SIIA Contact: John Crosby, VP Communications, 202-289-7442, *jcrosby@siia.net*
PR Contact: Beth Dozier, Rational 360, 202-429-1833, *bethdozier@rational360.com*

SIIA Welcomes Renewed ICANN-Commerce Partnership

Affirms Private Sector Model; Recognizes ICANN Processes Need Much Improvement

WASHINGTON, DC (September 30, 2009) – After ICANN and the Department of Commerce posted the "Affirmation of Commitments" today, in anticipation of the expiration of the Joint Project Agreement (JPA), Mark Bohannon, General Counsel & SVP Public Policy of the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) issued the following statement:

"SIIA welcomes the renewed partnership announced today between ICANN and the Commerce Department, as the next step in building confidence in the multi-stakeholder, private sector led model for the technical management of the Domain Name System (DNS).

"In particular, we want to thank the Obama Administration, and particularly NTIA Assistant Secretary Lawrence E. Strickling and his team, and Rod Beckstrom, the new ICANN CEO, and his team, for engaging seriously in this next phase of the Partnership.

"The recognition in today's commitments of the importance of Whois, and the need for transparent accountability, are essential ingredients of this renewed partnership.

"SIIA is especially pleased that today's announcement also acknowledges the widespread frustration that has been the hallmark of ICANN's proposal to roll out new gTLDs. We are pleased that the USG makes clear that it is not endorsing the rollout, and that ICANN must adequately address all the key issues before new gTLDs prior to implementation.

"The expiration of the JPA is not a final chapter in the transition of the DNS, nor does it reflect a clean bill of health for ICANN processes. On the contrary, it is a reaffirmation of the private sector model – and the reality that much more must be done to ensure an open, transparent and credible ICANN organization."

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

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