CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS

SolidSpeed Networks Joins Content Alliance With Cisco, Sun Microsystems, AOL, and Digex

New Content Networking Group Will Create Standards
For a Better Internet Experience

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Sept. 11 /PRNewswire/ -- Content Delivery Services provider, SolidSpeed Networks (http://www.solidspeed.com), announced its membership in the Content Alliance, an industry group recently created to set standards for the interoperability of Content Delivery Networks.

According to SolidSpeed Founder and CTO, Jon Zeeff, "Business on the Internet has become highly competitive and a web site must address customer demand for speed and reliability. This Alliance will create open standards and protocols that will enable the service providers to work in cooperation, further enhancing the performance benefits provided by a Content Delivery Service."

Besides SolidSpeed, the new charter members of the Content Alliance include: ARC, America Online, Inc., Digex, Documentum, EMC, Entera, HelloNetwork.com, NetSat Express, OBCTV.com, Primedia Workplace Learning, StorageNetworks, Streampipe.com, Sun Microsystems, Telefonica Data, US Data Authority, Vividon, and Walt Disney Internet Group.

Other charter members of the group include a wide range of service providers, content owners and technology vendors such as Cable & Wireless, Cisco Systems, Digital Island, Genuity, Global Center, Mirror Image Internet, NaviSite, Network Appliance, PSINet, and ServInt.

"The Content Alliance initiative has rapidly gained acceptance by a wide range of companies across the content networking value chain. This exemplifies the rapid growth in momentum of the content networking industry, and the desire of service providers to quickly resolve the technological and business issues that could otherwise slow down the development and delivery of advanced content services to customers," said Alex Benik, Analyst at the Yankee Group.

The Content Alliance also announced the first meeting of the Content Peering Working Group, which will take place on October 3, 2000, in Boston. The group will develop proposals to be submitted in time for the 49th meeting of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), December 10-15 in San Diego. A key initiative of the Content Alliance, the Content Peering Working Group, is designed to develop standards for content peering between separately administered content delivery networks. Content Peering allows CDNs to share resources for greater scale and reach than would be possible without such sharing. The Content Alliance has also announced that the first group of working documents will be available for review as of September 25, 2000.

These documents will be posted at http://www.content-peering.org .

"The Content Alliance has rapidly become the primary vehicle to drive industry-wide open standards for content networking services, including content delivery networks," said Krish Ramakrishnan, vice president and general manager at Cisco Systems. "The intensity of interest in the Content Alliance highlights the market desire to implement content networking services, the variety of services enabled by this technology, and the value of having them interoperate."

About SolidSpeed:

SolidSpeed Networks is a service-based Internet infrastructure company providing small and mid-size-business (SMB) Web sites significant performance enhancements. Customers typically experience 5x reliability and up to 10x speed improvement as well as the ability to handle spikes in demand. With its Content Delivery Network (CDN), 5-minute online sign-up process and revolutionary Web site performance-monitoring technology, SolidSpeed has acquired over 200 subscription customers since its initial commercial release on June 5, 2000. SolidSpeed Networks recently introduced a patent pending performance measurement technology, called Probester(TM). Based on the trend setting ideas incorporated in Napster and Gnutella, Probester will use the computers of thousands of web surfers to more accurately measure the performance of web sites. SolidSpeed, Inc. has raised $2.2 million in venture capital from investors such as John Landry - IBM Vice President and former CTO of Lotus Development, Gideon Gartner - founder of the Gartner Group and Giga Information Group, and Kevin Kalkhoven - former CEO of JDS Uniphase. Arbor Venture Partners II is the lead venture capital fund. A second round of financing is in progress.