REMARKS FOR FRAN SCHROTTER
NATIONAL PRESS CLUB
JUNE 22, 2004 @ 10:00 AM EDT

[Introduction]

Good morning. My name is Fran Schrotter and I am senior vice president

and chief operating officer of the American National Standards Institute.

Many of you know ANSI as the coordinator of voluntary standardization in

the United States.

It is my pleasure to be here this morning to congratulate the International

Information Systems Security Certification Consortium – or "I-S-C-squared"

– on a significant accomplishment. On June 9, 2004, they became the first

organization in the information technology sector to achieve accreditation

under the international standard known as "ISO/IEC 17024" – a globally-

recognized and accepted set of guidelines for bodies that certify personnel.

Some of you who may be unfamiliar with the standardization process may

be asking yourself, what does this accreditation mean to me – or more

importantly, what does it mean to your readers or listeners?

Quite simply, the certification of personnel helps to verify that individuals in a particular field have the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to perform their work. Global recognition comes when the organizations that certify these persons are accredited under an international standard by a neutral third party such as ANSI. This recognition not only helps to confer additional credibility for the organization, but it also facilitates the mobility across borders of the individual that holds the certification.

Let me put this in context by providing a short explanation of ANSI and the global standardization process.

Since it was founded in 1918, the ANSI has served as the coordinator of the U.S. voluntary consensus standardization system. We are a private, 501(c)3 not-for-profit membership organization established by five engineering societies and three government agencies, because they recognized the need for a focal point for standards coordination, harmonization and information.

ANSI is not a government agency or a regulatory body. Rather, the Institute provides a forum where subject matter experts from the private and public sectors can work cooperatively toward the development of voluntary

consensus standards and conformity assessment programs that ultimately benefit the nation.

Today, there are more than 200 ANSI-accredited standards development bodies and more than 10,000 American National Standards (ANS) that have been approved by the Institute under a set of procedures that require adherence to our cardinal principles of consensus, openness, balance and due process.

These same principles govern our conformity assessment activities.   Today, ANSI has globally-recognized accreditation programs for certifiers of quality management systems, environmental management systems, products, and our newest program for the accreditation of personnel certification bodies.

Our programs for the accreditation of certifiers of quality management systems (under ISO 9001) and environmental management systems (under ISO 14000) are both offered in partnership with the Registrar Accreditation Board. This ANSI/RAB National Accreditation Program has been recognized as one of the most valued and accepted marks in the world.

Our scope is global.   We serve as the official U.S. member of the

International Organization for Standardization. Via our U.S. National

Committee, we are also the member of the International Electrotechnical

Commission (IEC).   The ISO and IEC jointly developed the 17024

standard. ANSI is also a founding member of the International

Accreditation Forum (or IAF) and a signatory to the IAF Multilateral

Recognition Arrangement. The IAF is a worldwide association of

accreditation bodies that assess certification bodies for conformance to

international standards.

Whether in the domestic or global arena, ANSI is addressing standardization

needs in fields as varied as nuclear energy, information technology, material

handling and electronics. Alongside traditional engineering committees and

design-based standards are new and innovative projects ranging from quality

and environmental management, to standards for the service industry and

most recently, for personnel certification programs.

[What Is ISO/IEC 17024?]

In this library of globally relevant standards, a new book has been written. Its chapters prescribe norms for the most essential dimension of all enterprises – *people* – and the agencies that certify their knowledge, skills and abilities.

In April 2003, the ISO and IEC approved ISO/IEC 17024 as a new standard for *General Requirements for Bodies Operating Certification of Persons*. The text represents the agreement of the nearly 150 nations – including the United States – that participate in the ISO and IEC.

ISO/IEC 17024 provides the framework by which certification agencies can measure themselves. It also outlines a process for certification bodies to continually improve and enhance the quality of their services.

Personnel who have been certified by a body accredited under ISO/IEC 17024 become increasingly mobile because their certification is recognized virtually anywhere in the world.

As one certification executive said recently, *". . . I dread being without ANSI accreditation of my certification program … because my certificants now have <u>proven</u> quality assurance and global mobility – [which is] so necessary in today's marketplace."*

[Remarks about I-S-C-Squared]

In the context of this global economy – and its transformation by IT and the Internet – the accreditation of I-S-C-squared is timely. Theirs is an organization dedicated to providing certification to information security industry professionals worldwide.

Their organization is only the sixth to be accredited by ANSI under the ISO/IEC 17024 standard, and – as I mentioned in my opening remarks – they are the first to be accredited in the IT sector.

The requirements for accreditation are stringent and the commitment of I-S-C-squared to this accreditation process underscores its role in protecting global information systems.

In a moment, Jim Duffy, Executive Director of "I-S-C-squared", will tell you more about why they applied for accreditation and what the benefits are to them and their industry.

[Pause – Begin Conclusion]

This is an era when the public is demanding accountability.   Through ANSI's third-party accreditation program, public and consumer confidence increases because a person's capabilities and competence have been verified through a legitimate and qualified certification process. This is a benefit to employers and the professionals themselves, both here and abroad.

ISO/IEC 17024 has set the standard for global understanding in the area of personnel certification. ANSI's accreditation of I-S-C-squared under this standard is a strong step forward in increasing the value and impact of the services provided by information systems security professionals in a global, networked environment.

In closing, I congratulate Jim Duffy, the members and staff of I-S-C-squared on their vision and diligence in pursuing accreditation under ISO/IEC 17024.

They join the ranks of a pioneering group of certification bodies who have stepped forward to meet the global call for the accountability of personnel.

Thank you.