



## **ISE To Offer Customizable Connectivity To Members SFTI Extends ISE Network, Reduces Firm Communication Costs**

**NEW YORK, March 8, 2004** – The International Securities Exchange (ISE) said today that it is introducing a pilot program that will significantly enhance how members connect to the exchange and manage their bandwidth capacity and costs.

By the end of the second quarter of 2004, ISE's pilot program will connect participating members to the exchange's trading system through the Securities Industry Automation Corporation's (SIAC) Secure Financial Transaction Infrastructure<sup>SM</sup> (SFTI<sup>SM</sup>), a financial industry communications network. This means that an ISE member located in Chicago, or Boston, for example, need only connect to the local SFTI access center to use ISE's trading system. ISE members currently connect to the exchange using proprietary dedicated circuits such as T-1 or T-3 lines, through a telecommunications carrier, a managed service provider or a Virtual Private Network (VPN).

The SFTI network maintains access centers in major financial centers around the nation. These access centers form a secure, high-speed grid, enabling financial services firms to locally connect to SFTI. While this local connectivity will save some firms money, it also will enable them to more quickly connect to ISE. Once the firm's data reaches the access centers, SFTI will carry the data communications traffic to ISE via geographically dispersed fiber routes. To satisfy business continuity concerns, SFTI's equipment, connections, power supplies, and network links are fully redundant.

As part of the SFTI network, ISE members can leverage SFTI's Content Service Provider (CSP) services and "customize" their connections. For example, an ISE member with SFTI connectivity will be able to increase or decrease bandwidth quickly and easily and only pay for the capacity needed. Additionally, this can be accomplished without the time and expense of having to order more telecommunications circuits.

"ISE is pleased to be the first exchange to offer its members connectivity through the SFTI CSP offering," said Daniel Friel, ISE's Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer. "SFTI CSP is a major advancement in telecommunications for the financial industry."

All ISE members will be able to participate in SFTI by the fourth quarter of 2004.

### **ISE Background**

The International Securities Exchange, the world's largest equity options exchange, was founded on the principle that technology fosters and infuses new efficiencies and operational innovations into securities trading. After developing an innovative market structure that integrated auction market principles into an advanced screen-based trading system, ISE launched the first fully electronic US options exchange in May 2000. ISE continually enhances its trading systems to provide investors with the best marketplace to execute their options orders.

For more information about ISE, its products and its technology, visit [www.iseoptions.com](http://www.iseoptions.com).

**CONTACT:**

Alicia Curran  
Corporate Affairs Manager  
Research & Corporate Affairs  
International Securities Exchange  
(212) 897-8181  
[acurran@iseoptions.com](mailto:acurran@iseoptions.com)

-ISE-