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CONTACT:
Angela Hearn
(202) 463-8478
hearna@enterpriseworks.org
www.enterpriseworks.org

EnterpriseWorks Merges with Volunteers in Technical Assistance

Washington, DC, (March 29, 2005)—EnterpriseWorks Worldwide (EWW), an international non-profit organization that fights poverty through small business development programs, has merged with Volunteers in Technical Assistance (VITA). The combined organization, known as EnterpriseWorks/VITA (EWWV), will blend EnterpriseWorks' portfolio of economic development activities with VITA's extensive experience in microfinance and information/technology dissemination.

Don Feil, EnterpriseWorks president and CEO, will serve in the same capacity for EWWV. Vicki Tsiliopoulos, VITA executive director, has been named EWWV chief operating officer.

"VITA's capabilities, particularly in the area of financial services, provide the ideal compliment to EnterpriseWorks' business-building programs," said EnterpriseWorks Chairman Irene Wurtzel. "By uniting the talents and expertise of these two organizations, EnterpriseWorks/VITA will be a preeminent force in the fight against poverty with its ability to help hundreds of thousands of small producers and other entrepreneurs expand their businesses and strengthen their local economies."

About VITA

VITA is a non-profit organization with a 45-year history of empowering the poor in developing countries through access to information, financial services and improved technologies. VITA's particular focus is on support to entrepreneurs in the private, public and community sectors and on facilitating connectivity and technical information exchange between and among individuals and organizations. In the last 15 years alone, VITA has implemented long-term projects totaling in excess of \$100 million dollars in Afghanistan, Belize, Benin, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, China, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand and Zambia.

About EnterpriseWorks Worldwide

EnterpriseWorks Worldwide (formerly Appropriate Technology International) is a non-profit organization that promotes sustainable, enterprise-oriented solutions to economic challenges in the developing world. For 25 years EWW has assisted small-scale producers in more than 60 countries, enabling farmers and other entrepreneurs to boost their productivity, tap broader markets, capture higher value of finished products, and better manage natural resources. Recent projects in post-conflict situations have demonstrated the importance of economic opportunity in building a strong, stable, and peaceful transition to a healthy democracy. For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.enterpriseworks.org, e-mail info@enterpriseworks.org, or call (202) 293-4600.

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