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**Microsoft Opens New Las Vegas Office, Demonstrating Commitment to Local Community and Hospitality Industry**

**LAS VEGAS — Nov. 17, 2008 —** Meeting the growing demands of customers and partners, including several of Nevada’s largest employers, Microsoft Corp. today announced it has opened an office in Las Vegas. The company’s office supports several critical business units, including sales and services, technology specialists, and members of its hospitality industry team.

“By establishing an office in the entertainment capital of the world, we can build upon our success in attracting and developing great partnerships with leaders in the hospitality and gaming industry,” said Janet Kennedy, vice president of Microsoft’s West Region. “The Las Vegas office also better positions our team to expand Microsoft’s business presence in support of the growth of other industries in the region. We look forward to serving as active members of this thriving community for many years to come.”

Over the last six years, Microsoft has enabled hospitality and gaming organizations — including more than 80 percent of hotel and casino operators in greater Las Vegas alone — to enhance and personalize the guest experience, improve work-force productivity and streamline operations through innovative technology and connected experiences. With the success that Microsoft is experiencing in the industry, it was a logical progression to establish a permanent presence in this key market and build upon Microsoft’s larger presence in Nevada.

“Microsoft’s investment in its Las Vegas office is a testament to the company’s commitment to the hospitality industry,” said Scot Campbell, senior vice president and chief information officer at MGM MIRAGE. “Microsoft has consistently driven innovation in our business community and on the Las Vegas strip, which has a direct influence on the global market. We see tremendous value in the contributions they have made and look forward to future innovations that will help us to further engage our guests.”

A number of innovative technologies will be utilized and on display at Microsoft’s Las Vegas office, at 2300 W. Sahara Ave. In the lobby, visitors can find Microsoft Surface, the first commercially available surface computer, helping showcase the breadth and depth of guest experience opportunities it provides to the leisure and entertainment space. The office also features state-of-the-art teleconferencing rooms, which enables local customers to meet with their account managers and virtual teams, to strategize on the best technologies to address their business issues and enhance competitiveness.

With more than 230 Nevada-based employees, Microsoft is one of the state’s largest employers. Currently, the company has nearly a dozen full-time employees permanently based in Las Vegas and another 10 on average who routinely travel to the market to service local customers and partners on a daily basis.

Since 2003, Microsoft has given and matched employee gifts totaling more than $4.3 million in cash, curriculum and software in the state of Nevada. Microsoft and its employees support community organizations, educational institutions and human service agencies across Nevada with grants of cash, software, and curriculum, as well as employee volunteer hours. Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Partners in Learning and TechSoup are among its recipients.

Within the Las Vegas area, Microsoft is actively engaged with several charitable organizations including the Nevada Cancer Institute and Three Square, a community collaborative partnership with the casino and restaurant industries; businesses; non-profit agencies; food distributors; local governments; media; the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and hundreds of volunteers in Southern Nevada to provide healthy, nutritionally balanced meals for hungry and food insecure individuals in the community.

Microsoft is also involved in the local gaming community, collaborating on the green IT initiative for the Springs Preserve, a180-acre non-gaming cultural and historical attraction, and works with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration, helping students to better prepare for their future in the fast-innovating hospitality and gaming industry.

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq “MSFT”) is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential.

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