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NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEST-TEL RECEIVES TELECOM INDUSTRY AWARD AT TECHNOLOGY ASSURANCE GROUP'S 2003 NATIONAL CONVENTION

MEDFORD, OR — March 31, 2003 — Best-Tel, LLC, a leading local voice and data provider, was the winner of the Seven Step Sales Solution Circle Award at the Technology Assurance Group's 2003 National Convention held in San Diego last month, according to Chuck Whiteley of Best-Tel.

Best-Tel was recognized as a winner of the Seven Step Sales Solution Award for posting an annual sales increase of new telecommunications systems by more than 20 percent during 2002. Best-Tel is a member of TAG, the leading organization of independently owned teleconnect companies in the U.S.

"Despite a down economy, Best-Tel was able to stay focused and with hard work and dedication we increased our 2002 sales goal by more than 20 percent," said Whiteley. "We were very proud to accept this award on behalf of our dedicated staff and their outstanding efforts to bring the finest in quality customer service to our business customers during 2002."

The TAG National Convention, a premier telecommunications industry event, was attended by 75 of the finest independently owned interconnect companies in the United States. The annual convention, held February 19-21 in San Diego, enabled telecommunications leaders like Best-Tel and other members from around the country to network with their peers and embrace the finest in new voice and data solutions from their suppliers, peers and industry experts.

ABOUT THE TECHNOLOGY ASSURANCE GROUP

Founded in 1997, the Technology Assurance Group, Inc. (TAG) is a national organization of leading independently owned telecommunications companies. TAG provides its members an array of cooperative programs and services designed to increase sales and profit margins. The organization has grown from eight to 75 members with offices in 90 cities in the U.S. within that past two years. Today, TAG members have combined revenues of more than \$200 million. TAG members benefit from programs including strategic partnerships with many communication solution providers, end user leasing, long distance, ISP, DSL, VPN, WAN and more. TAG's mission is to leverage combined economic power, achieve increased sales, enhance profit margins, bring advanced technology to the market, and expand members' business expertise and guarantee customer satisfaction. For more information on TAG, please call 858-673-5800 or visit www.tagnational.net.

ABOUT BEST-TEL, LLC.

Chuck Whiteley and his business partner, Dennis Poulin, are owners of Best-Tel LLC, a member of the Technology Assurance Group (TAG). Best-Tel has built a team of professional voice and data specialists dedicated to the highest levels of customer support. Best-Tel's pattern of steady growth reflects their commitment to keeping pace with the constantly evolving telecommunications technology arena, and the dramatic expansion of the Pacific Northwest's business market. With offices located along the I-5 Corridor in Portland, Eugene, Medford, and Seattle, Best Tel is uniquely positioned to respond quickly and effectively to a wide range of customer equipment and service requirements.

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