



## NEWS RELEASE

*For immediate publication*

### ESI TECHNOLOGIES BECOMES MICROSOFT GOLD CERTIFIED PARTNER

**Montréal, March 14, 2006** - ESI Technologies is proud to announce that it has attained the highest level of Microsoft certification: **Gold Certified Partner**. This distinction recognizes ESI's abilities in two areas of expertise: advanced infrastructure solutions and network infrastructure solutions.

In order to attain this high level of performance and quality, a **Microsoft Gold Certified Partner** must meet internationally recognized quality standards, and must employ a number of certified and well-informed specialists who have experience with the latest technology within its organization. These experts must also prove their proficiency with Microsoft technology and their in-depth knowledge of Microsoft products. They are also required to have extensive hands-on experience in successfully developing and installing Microsoft solutions. Finally, they must have a number of references on file for each specialty.

Attaining **Microsoft Gold Certified Partner** status entitles ESI to a variety of benefits, particularly in terms of training and support, which gives it a competitive edge in the marketplace. "The advantages associated with our new status as a **Gold Certified Partner** will help us to continue to improve the services that we offer our clients," said Javier Magliocco, Director, Integration and Technical Support for ESI Technologies. "Combined with our know-how, this certification guarantees our customers quality support for all of the projects that are entrusted to us."

"Our industry partners allow us to deliver high-quality solutions and applications to our customers. And we are always looking for new ways to enhance our relationships," said Paul Flessner, Senior Vice-President, Server Platform Division at Microsoft. "Solutions competencies enable Microsoft to provide resources and training to technology partners such as ESI, seeking to meet and even surpass customer needs. The competencies also provide industry partners with a way to showcase their expertise to customer who depend on them for services, such as building their critical infrastructure needs."

Maintaining **Gold Certified Partner** status also involves an ongoing investment by each partner in order to keep in step with Microsoft's latest technologies and best business practices. The **Microsoft Gold Certified Partner** program was set up in 2003 with a view to maintaining that level of excellence and as a way to recognize and acknowledge privileged partners.

ESI is proud to have achieved **Microsoft Gold Certified Partner** status for its performance in the specializations of advanced infrastructure solutions and network infrastructure solutions. ESI was also recently awarded the designation of **Microsoft Small Business Specialist**.

**About ESI Technologies**

ESI Technologies specializes in the development and profitable management of high-performance, flexible, and secure technological infrastructures that meet each client's specific business goals. It offers consulting services and implements a wide range of solutions to ensure the security, availability, and performance of critical data, applications, and networks. It also deploys Web and Windows applications in Microsoft .NET environments. Through its proprietary Windows application **ACTION**, ESI also offers an integrated suite of flexible, user-friendly, and scalable business solutions. ESI Technologies is based in Montréal, with offices in Québec City and Toronto. For more information concerning ESI Technologies, please visit [www.esitechnologies.com](http://www.esitechnologies.com).