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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TIA APPLAUDS U.S.-VIETNAM PROGRESS TOWARD WTO ACCESSION**

Arlington, Va. -- The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) applauds negotiators for the bilateral agreement-in-principle reached between the United States and Vietnam. The trade agreement marks a significant step forward in Vietnam's efforts to join the World Trade Organization (WTO).

"Vietnam's commitment to market reform and international economic liberalization by signing this agreement will encourage further interest and investment in Vietnam, thereby creating new opportunities for TIA member companies and the global communications industry as a whole," TIA President Matthew J. Flanigan said.

By acceding to the WTO, Vietnam will become a signatory of the WTO Information Technology Agreement and commit to world-class standards in liberalization and enforcement principles. This agreement will also assist in convincing the U.S. Congress to extend permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) to Vietnam later this summer. The Vietnamese telecommunications market is valued at roughly USD \$1.5 billion dollars, and has a teledensity of 18.41 per 100 people. There are about 5.3 million Internet users, or 6.6 percent of the population -- compared to 902,000 households that have computers, and 42,900 broadband subscribers. These are clear indicators that the opportunities for growth in Vietnam are tremendous.

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TIA is the leading trade association for the information and communications technology (ICT) industry. As owner and producer of GLOBALCOMM™, TIA serves ICT suppliers to global markets through its leadership in standards development, domestic and international policy advocacy, and facilitating member business opportunities. TIA represents the communications sector of the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA). Visit us at <http://www.tiaonline.org>.

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