



January 17, 2012

Verisign to Award New Infrastructure Research Grants

New Program Expands on Success of 2011 Grants, Focuses on Strengthening Infrastructure for Global Access and the Developing World

(Marketwire) -

RESTON, VA -- (MARKET WIRE) -- 01/17/2012 -- VeriSign, Inc. (NASDAQ: VRSN), the trusted provider of infrastructure for the networked world, today announced the expansion of a grant program designed to promote cutting-edge research into strengthening and improving the Internet's global infrastructure. This year's program will focus specifically on fostering infrastructure improvements that support safe and secure Internet access for users around the globe, especially in the developing world.

In July 2012 Verisign will award two \$200,000 grants to the researchers who submit the most compelling proposals focused on the infrastructural and access challenges facing developers, service providers and most importantly, users in the developing world and elsewhere. The 2012 grants represent a continuation and expansion of a successful grants program that concluded in October 2011. Full details of the grant program, including details on how to apply, are available at www.verisigninc.com/grants.

"The continuing success of the Internet's global expansion will hinge on the existence of robust, secure and constantly improving core infrastructure," said Dr. Burt Kaliski, Jr., senior vice president and chief technology officer of Verisign. "Verisign has always been committed to upholding the stability and security of the Internet and is proud to support the research that will keep the infrastructure strong for the next billion Internet users in the developing world."

Verisign launched the Infrastructure Grant Program in 2010 to coincide with a yearlong celebration of the 25th Anniversary of .Com. In the inaugural program, Verisign awarded four \$75,000 grants (for a total of \$300,000) to university researchers to support compelling infrastructure research projects. That program concluded in October 2011, when the four winning researchers presented their findings at a grant symposium at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

Building off of the success of the inaugural program, Verisign has both increased the size and narrowed the focus of the grants in 2012, soliciting research that focuses on the infrastructural and access challenges faced by users in the developing world and elsewhere.

To judge the grant submissions, and determine the final grant awardees, Verisign is assembling a blue ribbon panel of experts who have played leading roles in developing the policies and technology that have supported the Internet's growth. The full list of judges will be posted in the coming weeks.

Verisign will announce the winners of the 2012 Infrastructure grants in summer 2012.

About Verisign

VeriSign, Inc. (NASDAQ: VRSN) is the trusted provider of Internet infrastructure services for the networked world. Billions of times each day, Verisign helps companies and consumers all over the world connect between the dots. Additional news and information about the company is available at www.verisigninc.com.

Statements in this announcement other than historical data and information constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 as amended and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as amended. These statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause Verisign's actual results to differ materially from those stated or implied by such forward-looking statements. The potential risks and uncertainties include, among others, the uncertainty of future revenue and profitability and potential fluctuations in quarterly operating results due to such factors as increasing competition, pricing pressure from competing services offered at prices below our prices and changes in marketing practices including those of third-party registrars; challenging global economic conditions; challenges to ongoing privatization of Internet administration; the outcome of legal or other challenges resulting from our activities or the activities of registrars or registrants; new or existing governmental laws and regulations; changes in customer behavior, Internet platforms and web-browsing patterns; the inability of Verisign to successfully develop and market new services; the uncertainty of whether our new services will achieve market acceptance or result in any revenues; system interruptions; security breaches; attacks on the

Internet by hackers, viruses, or intentional acts of vandalism; the uncertainty of the expense and duration of transition services and requests for indemnification relating to completed divestitures; the uncertainty of whether Project Apollo will achieve its stated objectives; the impact of the introduction of new gTLDs; the uncertainty of whether the .com Registry Agreement renewal will occur by December 1, 2012, if at all; and when a Chief Financial Officer will be named. More information about potential factors that could affect the company's business and financial results is included in Verisign's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K. Verisign undertakes no obligation to update any of the forward-looking statements after the date of this announcement.

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