



FASTWEB receives Cisco Systems’ “Managed Services Partner of the Year” award for Italy

Milan, 5 April 2005 – FASTWEB (Milan, Nuovo Mercato: FWB) – Italy’s leading alternative broadband telecommunications operator and the first operator worldwide to develop an all IP network for delivery of Triple Play services (voice, data video) – has been named Cisco Systems’ “Managed Services Partner of the Year” for Italy. The official presentation of the award will take place during the *Cisco World Wide Partner Summit 2005* being held in Vancouver (Canada) until 8 April.

FASTWEB has successfully developed a broad range of services implementing state-of-the-art technology from Cisco Systems. Its offer ranges from VPN WANs based on Cisco technology, to LANs, VOIP and IPTV services. With their outstanding quality, the Italian company’s services have attracted enormous interest from the market, as the large number of installations shows.

“The key to our partnership with Cisco Systems is innovation, not only in the type of services we develop for customers, but also in the technology we use to implement those services,” said FASTWEB Chief Technology Officer Guido Garrone. “Cisco has always given us its full support in identifying cutting-edge solutions in an area pioneered by us. In addition to providing basic technology, Cisco has helped us develop integrated security, VoIP and VPN solutions targeting the vertical markets we address.”

“Cisco Systems has an on-going commitment to optimizing its channel partners, and this important award is witness to the excellent results achieved by FASTWEB last year,” said Paolo Del Grosso, Indirect Sales VP at Cisco Systems Italy.

For more information:

<http://www.cisco.com/global/EMEA/partnerawards/>

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FASTWEB is Italy's leading alternative broadband telecommunications operator, covering around 20% of the Italian population at year-end 2004 with a network extending through more than 12,700 km of the country. The FASTWEB technological model is a worldwide first. It combines extensive use of the IP – Internet Protocol – for voice, data and video transmission with optical fiber and xDSL technology. With the recent launch of its new 2005-2013 industrial plan, the company's goal is to become the second-largest fixed telephony operator in Italy. The FASTWEB business sector offers competitive advanced services to all market segments: central and local government agencies, large, medium and small companies, professional firms, businesses and the world of universities and research. For residential customers, FASTWEB offers triple play services, i.e., a wide range of integrated fixed telephony, fast Internet and television services bundled on a single cable: free-to-air channels, satellite (by reintroducing SKY ITALIA premium content), plus an on-demand catalogue of more than 5,000 titles available in digital video quality and Dolby Digital 5.1 audio.

Cisco Systems (NASDAQ:CSCO) is the world's leading supplier of Internet networking solutions. News and information about the company and its products are available at <http://www.cisco.com>. Cisco Systems equipment is marketed in Europe by Cisco Systems International BV, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cisco Systems, Inc.