



## WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM *WELCOM Supporting Statement*

The World Economic Forum is today the foremost international membership organization integrating leaders from business, government and academia into a partnership committed to improving the state of the world. Through global, efficient, direct, personalized, and highest-level interaction, the World Economic Forum serves its members and constituents to define their agenda for action. The core community of the World Economic Forum are the 1,000 foremost global companies.

WELCOM -- the World Economic Community -- was developed by the World Economic Forum, its commercial arm and partner Advanced Video Communications, and other industry leading partner companies, to extend the capability of the World Economic Forum into virtual space. WELCOM provides a secure, private network that can be used by members and other audiences to continue the growth of relationships, ideas and directions initiated at Davos. WELCOM will enable geographically-dispersed Forum members to follow up on discussions with virtual face-to-face meetings, establishing a link that can help propel new concepts for business, policy and government, while allowing members to utilize the system's core base of reference information and on-line events.

"WELCOM was designed to vastly extend the World Economic Forum's mission to facilitate high-level personalized, high value-added interaction among global leaders," said Klaus Schwab, president and founder of the World Economic Forum. "The central theme this year at Davos is 'Building The Network Society,' and WELCOM is a direct reflection of the Forum's commitment to help its members positively shape the direction and influence the impact of this rapidly emerging society on a global basis."

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