

## **HighJump Software Enhances Solutions on Next-Generation Platform; Microsoft .NET-Based Architecture Strengthens Product Suite for Enterprise Readiness and Interoperability**

HighJump Software, a 3M company, a global leader in providing highly adaptable, best-of-breed supply chain execution solutions, today announced the release of its next-generation platform, which is based on Microsoft .NET technology. HighJump uses this platform to build, configure and run its solutions. The new platform will enhance the user experience through improvements such as increased performance and security, as well as a streamlined interface.

HighJump's .NET-based platform serves as a common foundation to seamlessly integrate its source-to-consumption solutions for warehouse management, transportation management, manufacturing execution and performance management. The platform leverages Web Services, an industry standard for enterprise application integration, to provide better business process management. This model allows the HighJump system to create composite applications, facilitating interoperability among all customer business systems. HighJump's extensive investment in .NET technology also supports ongoing internationalization of its product suite, a key factor in expansion efforts.

In this latest release of its platform, HighJump has continued its history of providing increasingly higher levels of enterprise-readiness with improved scalability, reliability and security. Servers can now support four times as many users as with previous platforms, thereby reducing the overall number of servers and support required. This new design also allows HighJump to take advantage of inherent features of ASP.NET to provide the scalability and reliability required in highly complex supply chain environments. The platform's use of .NET enables an improved Web environment and user interface, which decreases training time and helps end-users navigate HighJump applications quickly and efficiently.

HighJump and Microsoft have a long-standing relationship that continues to grow. In 2003, HighJump was recognized as a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner. This elite program provides a way for customers to identify companies that have proven their commitment and expertise in delivering Microsoft technologies. Microsoft Certified Partners must meet a higher set of criteria, including enhanced certification and a portfolio of real-world customer references, and are thus identified as the most skilled partners in specific solution areas.

"HighJump understands how to fully leverage the benefits of incorporating .NET technology as the basis for its supply chain execution product suite. Such a progressive model will allow manufacturers, as well as retailers, distributors and others, to easily reach the kind of interoperability needed to achieve competitive advantage," said John McGlynn, managing director, US manufacturing industry unit of Microsoft. "Not only does HighJump understand how easy the .NET platform is to implement Web Services, but it also has the foresight to picture a more efficient supply chain system--one that's based on this open platform."

"We've embraced Microsoft's flexible technologies for a long time and believe they lay a strong foundation for long-term expansion of our solution footprint," said Craig Knighton, vice president of product development for HighJump Software. "Microsoft's commitment to our solution suite will provide immense value for our customers as they work to join extended supply chain operations."

About HighJump Software, a 3M Company

HighJump Software, a 3M company, is a global leader in providing highly adaptable, best-of-breed supply chain

execution solutions that streamline manufacturing and distribution from the point of source through consumption. HighJump's tightly integrated solutions empower operational excellence in the warehouse and optimize the flow of inventory throughout the supply chain by facilitating collaboration with customers, suppliers and trading partners. These comprehensive solutions combine robust, standard functionality; a best practices-based implementation methodology; and a uniquely adaptable architecture that facilitates fast, cost-effective system modifications. The result: a low total cost of ownership for more than 700 customers worldwide. As an independent subsidiary in the 3M family of companies, HighJump leads the SCE software industry in financial strength and delivers on an unmatched commitment to innovation and quality. HighJump leverages these advantages to continually expand its solution footprint and empower operational excellence for domestic and multinational customers. For more information about HighJump, visit [www.highjump.com](http://www.highjump.com).

#### About 3M -- A Global, Diversified Technology Company

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