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BIGfrontier Named One of Top U.S. Networking Organizations in Churchill Trust International Study

BIGfrontier is only the Chicago networking organization to make the cut

Chicago: October 27, 2005 A Winston Churchill Memorial Trust of Australia study has named BIGfrontier Communications Group, a producer of grassroots business and technology events, as being one of the top networking organizations in the United States in an exhaustive international survey. The study authors surveyed event and facilitated networking organizations around the world before issuing their report.

Companies and organizations in Australia, the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Continental Europe were selected for "An International Study of Networking and Support Programs for Young (under 40) Professionals and Entrepreneurs."

"Networking is so important for business people these days; the purpose of the study was to better understand the success factors utilized by different groups to support this audience," says Kimberly Palmer, author of the study. "BIGfrontier is exciting as an independent, self-funded model that allows people to tap into top business thinker's knowledge without having to dig into their own pockets. Thus it encourages greater participation while attracting a high quality of attendees," she adds.

BIGfrontier has been conducting free networking and public education events since April 2000, making it one of the longest running business and technology event development organizations in Chicago. Speakers at the events have included noted MIT economist Lester Thurow, former COO of Microsoft Bob Herbold, former editor of the Harvard Business Review, Joel Kurtzman and legendary adman Al Reis. The BIGfrontier Midnight Missive newsletter carries candid interviews with an eclectic assortment nationally known figures ranging from Harry Shearer (Best of Show) to Howard Rheingold (Smart Mobs). Some of BIGfrontier's more iconoclastic events have included one of the country's first Pink Slip Parties (2002), Big Bang Bash (2001) and the Entrepreneur's Extravaganza (2002), each featuring a panel of regional and nationally acclaimed thought leaders addressing the night's topic.

"BIGfrontier has provided an invaluable service to Chicago's business community. Countless event attendees have found jobs, made deals, gathered important

information and developed significant relationships within their communities,” says David Weinstein, President of the Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center.

“We worked our butts off to deliver the most interesting and innovative content to Chicago’s business community and are one of just seven organizations selected in the United States. We’ve attracted international attention for our years of bootstrapped regional public education programs while several well heeled global networking organizations have disappeared altogether. Clearly deep pockets can’t bolster dull or recycled ideas. Our success was borne of creativity, tenacity and terrific support from our sponsors!” says Steve Lundin, founder of BIGfrontier and Chief Hunter and Gatherer of BIGfrontier Communications Group.

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About BIGfrontier:

BIGfrontier is one of Chicago’s longest running business and technology event development organizations. BIGfrontier is THE forum for national business and technology authors touring the Midwest, providing unparalleled access for attendees. The organization has won numerous business and marketing awards and is supported by a monthly email newsletter. The events are conducted as a public education service and are fully sponsored. Sponsors have included the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, Acquity Group, Mobium Creative Group, IBM, Hill & Knowlton, Baker & McKenzie, the Illinois Coalition, Anet and Duo Consulting. Some of the speakers who have graced our stage include: Richard Laermer (Full Frontal PR), Emanuel Rosen (The Anatomy of Buzz) Lester Thurow (Fortune Favors the Bold), Douglas Atkin (Culting of Brands) and Don Schultz (Brand Babble). Additional speakers can be found on our website: www.bigfrontier.org

About the Churchill Memorial Trust

The Churchill Trust is an Australian Trust established in 1965, the year in which Sir Winston Churchill died. The principal object of the Trust is to perpetuate and honor the memory of Sir Winston Churchill by the award of Traveling Fellowships known as Churchill Fellowships. A Churchill Fellowship is the award of an opportunity, through provision of financial support, to enable Australian citizens from all walks of life to travel overseas to undertake an analysis, study or investigation of a project or issue that cannot be readily undertaken in Australia. <http://www.churchilltrust.com.au>