

## **IBM Joins Calendaring and Scheduling Consortium**

*Use of Calendaring Standards in IBM Lotus Notes Boosts CalConnect's Momentum*

**McKinleyville, CA – October 24, 2005** – The Calendaring and Scheduling Consortium ([www.calconnect.org](http://www.calconnect.org)) announced today that IBM has joined the Consortium, with the expressed intent of working with other members to end the complexity, ambiguity, and lack of interoperability related to current calendaring standards. With its Lotus Notes products, IBM pioneered calendaring tools in the enterprise environment and led the initial development of the iCalendar standard, a key point of focus for CalConnect's interoperability events, held three times a year.

Today, users enjoy seamless interoperability with telephone and email tools. CalConnect is pursuing a similar goal in the area of calendaring and scheduling that will allow users to send invitations, view available time slots and accept and add invitations to their calendars, regardless of the technology used by individual parties or organizations. As a widely recognized supporter of open standards, IBM's participation will help drive this development forward, ultimately providing organizations with ability to select the calendaring and scheduling options that best suit their individual needs.

“Our members’ intent is to enable calendaring and scheduling tools and applications to enter the mainstream of computing,” said Dave Thewlis. “IBM’s participation will help us reach that goal, which we aim to achieve in the next few years.”

“This is the next logical step to ensure our Lotus Notes and IBM Workplace calendar functionality meets the ongoing needs of our customers,” said Chris Stoner, Project Leader for Lotus Notes, Mail Calendaring and Scheduling, IBM. “With this membership, IBM will continue to lead revisions to the standards and promote industry cooperation and interoperability.”

### **The Calendaring and Scheduling Consortium ([www.calconnect.org](http://www.calconnect.org))**

The Consortium focuses on the interoperable exchange of calendaring and scheduling information between dissimilar programs, platforms, and technologies. The mission is to provide mechanisms to allow calendaring and scheduling methodologies to interoperate, to promote understanding of these methodologies, and to enable calendaring and scheduling tools and applications to enter the mainstream of computing. Organizational members include California State University (Fresno), Carnegie Mellon University, Dartmouth College, Duke University, EVDB, IBM, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Meeting Maker, M.I.T., The Mozilla Foundation, Novell, Open Source Application Foundation, Oracle Corporation, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Stanford University, Symbian, Trumba, UC Berkeley, University of Washington, University of Wisconsin Madison, and Yahoo! Inc. Launched December 2004, the Consortium will hold a series of interoperability testing events, Roundtables and Technical Committee meetings to achieve its objectives within a five-year time frame.