Federal Chief Information Officers Council

July 8, 2003

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MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS

FROM: KAREN S. EVANS

SUBJECT: Industry Partnerships

Since I released my memorandum regarding the vision for the CIO Council activities, I have been approached by many of industry partners requesting clarification for their participation in our activities. Now that I am settled into the Vice Chair position, I thought I would attempt to address our partnership with industry.

I really believe this is a time of great opportunity for government IT leaders. We have an administration that is very supportive of technology as an enabler of change; we have a tremendously talented pool of IT professionals, both federal employees and contractors, who are dedicated to the improvement of IT services in government; and we have a great opportunity to unite these elements into a synergy that I believe is really quite exciting.

Instituting an Enterprise Architecture throughout government, and undergoing all of the necessary internal cultural changes that entails, is a daunting task. It is, however, the right thing to do. Making our government more efficient and more effective is what IT is all about. Saving taxpayer dollars through a managed architecture shared by all government elements is in the best interests of our nation.

In order to meet this challenge, the Council and OMB should use these opportunities to encourage all agencies to recognize the importance of the private sector. The US government spends more on technology than any entity in the world. This fact should drive both government and contractors to one inescapable conclusion – business and government must team together to get results.

There is plenty of work in the federal government to get us going in the right direction. There are many, many companies capable of helping government agencies achieve their vision. There are plenty of opportunities for cooperation between government and contractors and competition among vendors.

The Administration has given us the President's Management Agenda as a tool to effectively drive the management of our government. So I now issue a challenge to my fellow CIOs and to industry to partner for results. Many companies, both small and large, within the IT community are able and willing to provide assistance on our architecture and business case efforts. As CIOs, we should be looking to all of industry for potential solutions to move forward with the President's Agenda and manage our portfolio in the best interest of the tax payer.

I look forward to our partnering efforts and want our experiences, especially through our committee work, to be shared through our Best Practices Committee.