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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend Announces Groundbreaking Study on Internet Usage & IT Infrastructure in Maryland

eReadiness Maryland Study Provides Detailed Analysis of Internet Usage, Access and Infrastructure

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 18, 2002) – Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend today announced the findings of the first-ever, comprehensive statewide study on Internet usage, access and infrastructure among Maryland’s businesses and households.

The Lt. Governor presented the findings of *eReadiness Maryland: Assessing our Digital Opportunities* at a news conference at the State House in Annapolis.

“This study demonstrates our commitment to continuing to make Maryland a national leader in Internet access for business and homes,” said Lt. Governor Townsend. “*eReadiness Maryland* is the first important step to improving broadband access throughout the state. The study gives us both a detailed map of the broadband infrastructure in Maryland and a better understanding of how businesses and private citizens access the Internet. This information will be invaluable as the State and private sector work together to develop a comprehensive system of high-speed data networks in all regions of Maryland.”

The Lt. Governor presented Phase I of the study, which included the survey results of 1,422 households and 1,126 businesses, real-time dial-up connection speeds from 24 locations and previously unavailable maps of fiber infrastructure, DSL service and cable modems. Phase II of the study will be a series of regional briefings to review the findings and discuss policy recommendations.

(Editor’s Note: Results of the study are attached.)

The Lt. Governor, who serves as Honorary Co-Chair of the project’s statewide corporate steering committee, was joined at the news conference by Andre Lynch, Chair of the committee and President and CEO of Ingenium Corp.; Linda Burek, Co-Chair of the committee and Maryland’s CIO; and Dr. Phillip Singerman, Executive Director of the Maryland Technology Development Corp. (TEDCO), which managed the study. Dr. Catherine Gira, President of Frostburg State University, served as the other Co-Chair of the committee.

Lynch said: “Maryland is only the second state in the nation to complete such an ambitious study. The private sector supported this project because Internet access is critical to the State’s economic development.”

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TEDCO managed the study, along with contributing \$100,000 to the project. TEDCO's funding leveraged \$100,000 from the federal Economic Development Administration, \$110,000 from industry sponsors and \$45,000 from the State.

eReadiness Maryland's sponsors include Allegheny Ventures, Comcast, Dimension Data, FiberPlus Inc., IBM Corp., Maryland Information Technology Center (MITC), Metromedia Fiber Network Inc., Miles & Stockbridge P.C., Northrop Grumman Information Technology, USInternetworking Inc. and Verizon.

"The information gathered in Phase I of the *eReadiness Maryland* assessment is a major step forward, but it is just the first step," the Lt. Governor said. "There are challenges to creating universal access statewide and it will require the engagement of citizens, businesses, nonprofit organizations and local governments to review and analyze this information and apply it to the specific needs of each region."

Looking ahead to the next phase of *eReadiness Maryland*, the Lt. Governor announced the schedule for a series of regional briefings to review the findings of the study and discuss policy recommendations. This data will be presented on Fri., April 19 at the Technology Opportunities Conference in Garrett County; on Tues., April 23 at the second annual Netcentricity Conference at the University of Maryland College Park; on Fri., April 26 at a meeting in Southern Maryland sponsored by its Tri-County Council; on Wed., May 8 on the Lower Eastern Shore at Snow Hill; and on Mon., May 13 on the Mid-Eastern Shore at Wye Mills –Chesapeake College.

The Lt. Governor also announced at the press conference that \$50,000 will be provided to commission an additional in-depth study on the need for high-speed bandwidth in Western Maryland. TEDCO has committed \$25,000 and has obtained a matching grant of \$25,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The *eReadiness Maryland* study was designed by Ohio's Technology Policy Group, overseen by TEDCO staff and vetted by the Steering Committees. RESI, the consulting arm of Towson University, administered a household telephone survey to 1,422 respondents. Residents were asked for information that included income and education level, computer usage and ownership and modes of Internet access. The Survey Research Center at the University of Maryland College Park conducted a business telephone survey. A total of 1,126 respondents were asked for information that included number of employees, revenue levels, type of business, Internet usage and access means. TEDCO partnered with the Technology Policy Group of the Ohio Supercomputer Center to complete Maryland's infrastructure analysis.

The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) was established by the General Assembly as a tool for Maryland to use in maintaining and enhancing its reputation as a leader in technology. TEDCO's mission is to foster the development of a technology economy that will create and sustain businesses throughout all regions in the State of Maryland. Currently, TEDCO has programs that aid and promote state-funded incubators, federal and university laboratories to increase technology transfer and Maryland's eCommerce. For more information on TEDCO visit its updated website that includes better access to programs and resources at www.MarylandTEDCO.org.

Phase I of *eReadiness Maryland* findings can be found on TEDCO's website at www.MarylandTEDCO.org.