

MASSACHUSETTS
HIGHTECHNOLOGYCOUNCIL

Dedicated to Growth... Committed to Action

For Immediate Release

***Embargoed for publication until March 4, 2005**

Contact: Cort Boulanger (781) 890-6482

***High Tech Council CEO Survey Reveals Positive Outlook
More than half of tech CEOs plan to add jobs in 2005***

The results of Massachusetts High Technology Council's 2005 CEO High Tech Business Climate Survey point to a positive year for job creation in the state's diverse technology economy. The survey, conducted each year since 1987, shows that more than half of the participating Massachusetts technology CEOs plan to add jobs in the next 12 months. The survey results will be presented at the Council's March 4 Annual Meeting, featuring Senator Edward Kennedy and Governor Mitt Romney as special guest speakers.

"The positive opinion of Massachusetts by top CEOs does not mean that our work is done – far from it," said Council Chairman and Centra Software Chief Executive Paul R. Gudonis. "We must continue to work to develop a long-term, technology focused economic development strategy for Massachusetts that addresses public education, tax policy, health care and public infrastructure."

Gudonis noted that 84 percent of the CEOs responding to the survey view Massachusetts as a good or outstanding place to run a high tech company – stable from last year and up from 64 percent in 2003. Looking forward, 96 percent believe the state's tech economy is "improving" or holding steady, a one percent increase from last year.

For the first time in this survey, CEOs were asked about their employment plans for 2005. In a very positive sign for the state economy, 52 percent plan to create new jobs, while only six percent plan to cut back this year. Of those planning to hire, 78 percent attribute it to an anticipated sales increase.

"These positive numbers indicate that, despite the recent downturn, Massachusetts is a very good place for innovation and entrepreneurs," said Council President Christopher R. Anderson. "We still need to work with Beacon Hill leaders to make Massachusetts more competitive for the future, but the short-term job growth projections are welcome news for employers and employees alike."

The annual survey also helps set the Council's public policy agenda this year. Top priorities for the technology industry include:

- Preserving/expanding the missions at Hanscom AFB and the Natick Soldier Systems Center;
- Maintaining/enhancing competitive business and personal tax policies;
- Reform the Unemployment Insurance system;

- Strengthen UMASS as world-class public higher education system;
- Provide accessible, high quality and cost effective health care system, through medical malpractice reform and improved use of technology;
- Support competition in restructured energy marketplace.

###

Attached: Powerpoint presentation of full survey results