

## **Vertex(R) Attains Certified Partner Status In Microsoft Partner Program**

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### **Further Distinguishes Itself by Earning a Microsoft Competency In ISV/Software Solutions**

BERWYN, Pa., Feb. 23 /PRNewswire/ -- Vertex Inc. (<http://www.vertexinc.com>), the leading provider of tax management solutions, announced today that it has attained Certified status in the Microsoft Partner Program with a competency in ISV/Software Solutions, recognizing Vertex's expertise and total impact in the technology marketplace. As a Certified partner, Vertex has demonstrated expertise with Microsoft technologies and the proven ability to meet customer needs. Microsoft Certified Partners receive a rich set of benefits that include: access, training, and support that provide a competitive advantage in the marketplace.

For over 25 years, Vertex has been offering technologies and services that help to streamline the tax compliance process and leverages information that customers obtain to discover new strategic tax savings. Vertex partners with customers to deliver the ultimate combination of accuracy, functionality, reliability, and compatibility, with software and service solutions designed to support a wide range of business models.

"We are extremely pleased to have attained Certified status in the Microsoft Partner Program. This allows us to clearly promote our expertise and relationship with Microsoft to our customers," said Jack Ferraioli, vice president of Customer Relationship Development at Vertex. "The benefits provided through our Certified status will allow us to continue to enhance the offerings that we provide for customers."

"Customers are looking for partner companies that can bridge the gap between their business demands and technology capabilities. They need to trust in someone that can act as an expert adviser for their long-term strategic technology plans. Microsoft Certified Partners, which have certified expertise and direct training and support from Microsoft, can build a positive customer experience with our technologies," said Allison Watson, vice president of the Worldwide Partner Sales and Marketing Group at Microsoft Corp. "Today, Microsoft recognizes Vertex as a new Microsoft Certified Partner for demonstrating its expertise in providing customer satisfaction with Microsoft products and technology."

As one of the requirements for attaining Certified Status, Vertex had to declare a Microsoft Competency. Microsoft Competencies are designed to help differentiate a partner's capabilities with specific Microsoft technologies to customers looking for a particular type of solution. Each competency has a unique set of requirements and benefits, formulated to accurately represent the specific skills and services that partners bring to the technology industry.

The Microsoft ISV/Software Solutions Competency recognizes the skill and focus partners bring to a particular solution set. Microsoft Certified Partners that have obtained this competency have a successful record of developing and marketing packed software based on Microsoft technologies. "Solutions Competencies are an important way for Microsoft to better enable ISVs to meet customer needs," said Sanjay Parthasarathy, corporate vice president of the Platform Strategy & Partner Group at Microsoft. "They allow ISVs to keep and win customers with their deep knowledge of solutions-based Microsoft platform technologies. Microsoft has a long history of working closely with ISV partners to help deliver compelling solutions and applications to our mutual customers, and the Solutions Competencies are an important step in continuing to enhance vital relationships with ISVs worldwide."

The Microsoft Partner Program was launched in December 2003 and represents Microsoft's ongoing commitment to the success of partners worldwide. The program offers a single, integrated partnering framework that recognizes partner expertise, rewards the total impact that partners have in the technology marketplace, and delivers more value to help partners' businesses be successful.

#### About Vertex Inc.

Vertex Inc. is the leading provider of tax technology products and process management services for more than 10,000 customers worldwide. Vertex technologies and services help companies streamline tax compliance processes, as well as leverage information to discover new strategic tax savings that enhance decision information across every major line of business tax including income, sales, consumer use, value added, communications, and payroll. To serve its customers, Vertex works in partnership with leading software and service providers, including SAP, Oracle, Microsoft, IBM, and PeopleSoft.

Founded in 1978, Vertex is a privately held company that employs 600 professionals at its headquarters in Berwyn, PA and offices in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Sarasota and Washington, DC.

For more information about Vertex, visit our Web site at <http://www.vertexinc.com>.

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