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DR. JONATHAN M. CHARRY JOINS MANATT JONES GLOBAL STRATEGIES

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 15, 2004 — Manatt Jones Global Strategies, LLC announced today that Jonathan M. Charry, Ph.D. has joined the international consulting Firm as Managing Director. Dr. Charry has 15 years of experience in advanced technology development and applied sciences, corporate strategic planning, business and corporate development, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate and finance. Dr. Charry works with companies in Canada, Europe and the U.S.

“Dr. Charry brings business and academic expertise to our prominent group of professionals, and a familiarity with international issues that will be a tremendous asset to our clients,” said Ambassador James Jones, co-founder of Manatt Jones Global Strategies. “These attributes complement the consulting Firm's ongoing global diversification efforts and provide an opportunity to reach out more to Canadian and European businesses and markets.”

Dr. Charry is the former Senior Vice President, Corporate Development, for NCT Group, Inc. and its subsidiary Artera Group, Inc., which focuses on information technology software with applications for high-speed data communications, and converged voice and data systems. At NCT, Dr. Charry implemented a strategic relationship for Artera Group with Avaya Inc., a global provider of business communications software, systems and services, for enterprise applications of Artera's application software. Artera's network-optimization software is embedded as a key component of Avaya's IP Migration strategic initiative.

“I am delighted at the opportunity to work with my new colleagues at ManattJones,” said Dr. Charry. “The Firm's global consulting business and its desire to expand its practice to the information technologies industry is tailor-made for my areas of interest and my expertise in the field.”

Prior to working at NCT, Dr. Charry was Chairman and CEO of Digital Power Networks Inc., a development-stage company with advanced information technology capabilities for the electric power industry. During his tenure, he led the company into two strategic joint ventures including General Electric GE Prolec division and Asea Brown Boveri. He also established research and development partnerships with a number of U.S. investor-owned electric power companies and European electric utilities. Dr. Charry raised more than \$20 million in a combination of strategic alliance financing and invested capital to develop advanced technologies for electric power applications.

Dr. Charry also has served as President and CEO of Environment Research Information, Inc., a risk assessment-consulting firm where he developed state-of-the-art risk assessment models. Dr. Charry held several academic positions at The Rockefeller University and New York University.

Dr. Charry is a member of The Rockefeller University Chapter of Sigma Xi, a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the New York Academy of Sciences. He is also former President and Director of the American Institute of Medical Climatology and former Chairman of the Section on Air and Other Environmental Ion Technology of the American Society of Testing and Materials. He is fluent in French and English.

Dr. Charry received his Ph.D. from New York University in 1976 and an A.B. from Tufts University in 1970.

Manatt Jones Global Strategies, LLC develops and implements strategies to expand clients' businesses and facilitate their effective competition in global markets. Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP provides legal and consulting services to domestic and international clients through its nearly 300 legal professionals from offices in Albany, N.Y.; New York City; Los Angeles, Orange County, Palo Alto and Sacramento, Calif.; Washington, D.C.; and Mexico City.

For more information, visit www.manattjones.com and www.manatt.com.