



PRESS RELEASE: April 2005

The SMS Group has been named a Microsoft® Gold Certified Partner. This means they have demonstrated superior levels of successful implementations, capabilities and certification. Microsoft Gold Certified Partners are required to meet rigorous requirements for certification and expertise. The SMS Group has reached the status of Gold Certified Partner by demonstrating increased levels of developer certification, deep real-world experience, and by providing completed customer reference projects that were independently verified by Microsoft.

Through engagement with Microsoft, Microsoft Gold Certified Partners have in-depth access to a variety of exclusive resources and early product information. Resources include priority access to a support team of Microsoft certified systems engineers, non-disclosure evaluation of new products and technologies, as well as planning tools and events to keep up to speed on the latest Microsoft product developments and future direction.

The SMS Group employs Microsoft Certified Professionals (MCPs); individuals who have passed certification exams designed to validate their mastery using Microsoft tools and technologies. A recent study of Microsoft Certified Systems Engineers (MCSEs) and their supervisors by Jack McKillip, Ph.D. at Southern Illinois University, rated MCPs as highly effective workers on the job and IT supervisors rated MCSEs as more competent on all global dimensions as compared to non-certified systems engineers. Be sure to ask for a MCP on your next project.

This year Microsoft will continue to invest in certification and enhanced resources and support for Microsoft Gold Certified Partners as part of our ongoing commitment to provide customers with choice and best of breed product solutions via Microsoft Gold Certified Partner companies such as The SMS Group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Allison L. Watson", is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Allison Watson  
Vice President – Partner Sales and Marketing Group  
Microsoft Corporation

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