PTO affirms i4i patent; Supreme Court grants writ

Toronto, November 29, 2010 – In Washington DC today, the Supreme Court of the United States announced that it has granted a writ of certiorari seeking review of the i4i v Microsoft patent infringement case. The Supreme Court is the last avenue of appeal for Microsoft in this case. The Chief Justice took no part in the consideration or decision of this petition.

It was also announced last week, on Wednesday, November 24, that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) has denied Microsoft’s second ex parte application for a re-examination of i4i’s United States Patent No. 5,787,449 (‘449), the subject of i4i v Microsoft.

Loudon Owen, Chairman of i4i, says, “The PTO has again affirmed the validity of our patent by denying Microsoft’s request for a second reexamination.” Owen adds, “The attack on patent holders and the adverse implications from the standard Microsoft is proposing is unprecedented and would deal a devastating blow to any US patent holder, large or small. Naturally, the proposed standard would be particularly destructive to the value of patents for inventors, technology pioneers and entrepreneurial companies that don’t have the resources of Microsoft and other giants.” Says Owen, “In light of both the importance of this case, and the facts that have already been tried, i4i is confident we will continue to prevail before the courts.”

In March 2007, i4i sued Microsoft for willful infringement of its United States Patent 5,787,449 (‘449). On May 20, 2009, the jury found i4i’s Patent ‘449 valid and infringed, and awarded Microsoft to pay damages to i4i. On August 11, 2009, The Honorable Leonard Davis issued a Final Judgment against Microsoft that included both an award of damages in excess of $290 million USD to i4i, and a Permanent Injunction, which took effect on January 11, 2010. Microsoft unsuccessfully appealed the decision to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit late last year, and also unsuccessfully sought a rehearing of the decision of the Court of Appeals earlier this year.

i4i is a global technology company headquartered in Toronto, Canada. For more information on i4i v. Microsoft, selected court documents can be found on www.i4ilp.com.

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