



For Immediate Release

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Grants Lead Northwestern PA into Age of Technology Round 2 of IT Kickstart set to begin

ERIE, PA (3/17/2005) --- The Center for eBusiness and Advanced Information Technology (eBizITPA) is holding a series of kick-off events across the region to promote the advantages of its *IT Kickstart* program for area businesses and IT providers.

The IT Kickstart program provides competitive grants for small to medium-sized businesses across thirteen Northwest Pennsylvania counties to accelerate information technology projects that will make them more competitive and drive the work generated by these projects to regional information technology providers.

Presentations are scheduled for:

January 25 Erie – Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center 7:45 – 9:30 AM

January 26 Sharon – Radisson Hotel of Sharon 7:45 – 9:30 AM

January 27 DuBois – Holiday Inn 7:45 – 9:30 AM

“Kickstart is intended to assist companies implement IT projects that can impact their productivity, profitability and competitiveness,” says Ron May, IT Kickstart Program Manager at eBizITPA. “It does this through both a financial reimbursement program and through access to experienced IT providers and support by eBizITPA and NWIRC. The process has been refined since last year’s pilot program to make it easy to apply and receive this assistance. And we have more funds available so that we can help more companies!”

The kick-off events will provide details of the program and how to participate along with experiences from area businesses that have participated in the first round of grants in 2004.

Businesses and IT providers interested in learning more about the Kickstart program and meeting people who have experienced success with the program should RSVP for the event by visiting www.ebizitpa.org/ITkickstart or calling (814) 898-6500.

The Center for eBusiness and Advanced IT is a state-wide Ben Franklin Technology Authority initiative designed to help Pennsylvania businesses and organizations understand and use information technology and e-business tools. It is headquartered in Erie, PA and located on the Internet at www.ebizitpa.org.

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