



Coalition of Service Industries

## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
January 12, 2005

**Contact: Ekrem Sarper**  
**(202) 289-7460 x 33**

### **CSI Announces Launch of the Open Government Project**

The Coalition of Service Industries, the leading business organization dedicated to the reduction of barriers to U.S. services exports today announced the launch of the "*Open Government Project*" (<http://www.ogproject.org>). This innovative on-line resource is designed to promote the awareness of the importance of open, transparent government regulatory processes, and their impact on international trade and investment.

"Enhancing regulatory transparency has been a worldwide need for many years." said Norman R. Sorensen, Chairman of CSI, and President of Principal International Inc. "Improving regulatory transparency is a critical step in economic development, and to date there has been no centralized repository of information on this important subject. The *Open Government Project* fills this void."

Based on an initial analysis of fourteen countries' regulatory transparency practices, the *Open Government Project* has developed the first ever set of global "best practices", which can be applied to any service sector. It serves as an important means of demonstrating to a great many countries that is possible for them to adopt transparency disciplines and that it is first and foremost in their own interest to do so.

The *Open Government Project* is supported by a grant from the GE Foundation. It includes a toolkit with best practices and country analyses, transparency benefits analyses, regulatory transparency implementation pathways, a comprehensive compendium of annotated journal articles and papers on transparency, links to over one hundred other sites related to transparency, and on-line discussion groups.

"The exciting thing about this rule of law, capacity building initiative is it is practical and oriented to those countries that are truly committed to making transparency a reality" said Michael Gadbow, Senior Counsel International Law & Policy of General Electric Company.

To visit the site, go to: <http://www.ogproject.org>.

#####

---

The U.S. Coalition of Service Industries is the leading U.S. business association representing companies across a broad spectrum of service sectors. CSI is dedicated to reducing barriers to U.S. services exports and mobilizing support for domestic U.S. policies, including tax policies, which enhance the global competitiveness of its members. CSI was formed in 1982 to ensure that U.S. trade in services would become a central goal of U.S. trade policy and trade negotiations. It played a major role in the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and in the advocacy effort leading to the 1997 World Trade Organization (WTO) Basic Telecommunications and Financial Services Agreements. CSI's knowledge of the process of services trade negotiations, its ties to the WTO and its network of relationships with governments and industry in other countries are unmatched. For a complete list of CSI members, visit our website at [www.uscsi.org](http://www.uscsi.org).