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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **ASIS International Supports Global Efforts in ISO Standardization**

**Alexandria, Va. (Oct. 24, 2007)** – ASIS International (ASIS), the largest organization for security professionals, today reiterated its policy decision to support global efforts in standardization via the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Standards are a set of voluntary criteria, guidelines and best practices used to enhance the quality, performance, reliability and consistency of products, services and/or processes.

With more than 35,000 members in approximately 200 countries, ASIS takes a world view on serving the community of security professionals.

“Today’s security issues and challenges transcend borders and jurisdictions,” says F. Mark Geraci, CPP, chairman of the ASIS Commission on Standards and Guidelines. “Natural disasters and intentional disruptions such as terror do not recognize boundaries. Therefore, ASIS is behind the effort to eliminate confusion by supporting the level playing field of international standards. Without globalization, the public and private sectors cannot adequately protect their constituents if they need to contend with a diverse set of national standards.”

The ISO Technical Committee, ISO/TC 223: Societal Security, is responsible for developing standards on preparedness and continuity management. The work of ISO/TC 223 recently produced an agreement on best practices that unanimously passed through the required ISO process. A technical advisory group, chaired by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), represents the United States on ISO/TC 223.

The best practices agreement, known as ISO/PAS 22399: 2007 Societal Security—Guideline for Incident Preparedness and Operational Continuity Management, establishes a single globally recognized benchmark for public and private sector preparedness and continuity management. It incorporates the best elements from documents submitted by Australia, Israel, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States (which submitted the NFPA 1600 “Standard on Disaster/Emergency and Business Continuity Program”).

(more)

“The ISO/PAS 22399 is more comprehensive than its individual parts,” Geraci says. “It represents a significant step forward in incident preparedness and business continuity, encompassing the core concepts of the contributing documents. This is why the global community has endorsed the ISO/PAS 22399 as a robust, business-friendly approach to preparedness and continuity management.”

ASIS developed the All Hazards Risk Management Draft Best Practices Standard as an auditable companion to the ISO/PAS 22399. It incorporates the successful Guideline on Business Continuity published by ASIS in 2004. By using universally recognized management systems practices, corporations will be able to add the security, preparedness and continuity components to already existing management processes. To enhance resilience and enable seamless integration of business continuity into organizational management, the ISO/PAS 22399 and the ASIS Standard are aligned with other globally accepted ISO management system standards.

The position of ASIS is that not only do these types of international documents represent the best thinking of security professionals around the world, but they also drive clarity around an organized approach to the challenges facing corporations, as well as the public sector today. Therefore, ASIS:

- Supports the efforts of ISO/TC 223 to establish a global industry “dictionary” that contains definitions of key terms and concepts. Only by working on the global level is it possible to avoid confusion of multiple standards and definitions.
- Calls for increased participation in ISO/TC 223’s efforts to enhance public-private partnerships, as well as improve cross-organizational and cross-jurisdictional command and control efforts before, during and after a disruptive incident.
- Promotes the message of international cooperation, coordination and standardization in preparedness, continuity and emergency management, as well as in other disciplines within security practice.
- Encourages members of the public and private sectors and professional colleagues to join ASIS in this global effort by volunteering to serve on their country’s committees.

ASIS continues to play an important role in coordinating with both the U.S. Congress and the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that the security expertise of its members is included in the standards development processes that are currently in progress. ASIS is a member of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Homeland Security Standards Panel (HSSP) that is assisting DHS in the development and adoption of consensus standards critical to homeland security in the United States.

For more information, please visit [www.asisonline.org](http://www.asisonline.org).

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## **About ASIS International**

ASIS International (ASIS) is the preeminent organization for security professionals, with more than 35,000 members worldwide. Founded in 1955, ASIS is dedicated to increasing the effectiveness and productivity of security professionals by developing educational programs and materials that address broad security interests, such as the ASIS Annual Seminar and Exhibits, as well as specific security topics. ASIS also advocates the role and value of the security management profession to business, the media, government entities, and the public. By providing members and the security community with access to a full range of programs and services, and by publishing the industry's number one magazine—*Security Management*—ASIS leads the way for advanced and improved security performance.