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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 2, 2004

"REAP Investment Board Purchases a Rural North Dakota Business"

Maddock, ND--The REAP (Rural Economic Area Partnership) Investment Board announced today the purchase of TechLink, Inc., a data processing company with production centers in Ashley and Dickinson, North Dakota. *A check presentation and public announcement will be made in Ashley on September 1, 2004 at TechLink headquarters with the press invited.*

TechLink, Inc, a technology firm, currently has 45 employees (27 employees at the Dickinson location and 18 in Ashley) and provides data processing services, including data entry and validation of claims.

The firm has been fully operational since June of 1997 when it secured a federal subcontract with Noridian Administrative Services to verify Medicare Part "B" Healthcare Claims. TechLink also has a major contract with Dakota Imaging (A Web MD Company) located in Columbia, Maryland.

Tim Faller, REAP Investment Board Chairman said of the purchase: "The Board purchased TechLink, Inc for the purpose of expanding the company into other communities within the REAP Zones. With additional capital and marketing expertise, the Company will continue to grow and provide jobs in many of our other rural towns. It's an exciting opportunity for the REAP Investment Board."

Jason Dockter, General Manager of TechLink, Inc. in Ashley, stated "I am very pleased that the RIB has acquired TechLink because I believe they have access to resources that will help us meet important business initiatives so we can grow and expand operations at current and new locations in North Dakota."

In 1995, two REAP zones in southwestern and north-central North Dakota were created with the help of Senator Byron Dorgan to address issues related to outmigration, declining employment and economic activity. At the same time the REAP Zones were created, the REAP Investment Board, a 501 (c) 3 corporation, was established to assist in administering funding for new and/or expansion of present businesses within the REAP Zones. The REAP Investment Board is comprised of 9 volunteer members representing the two REAP Zones.