

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 2, 2005

CONTACT: Beth Weaver (301) 814-4088
bethweaver@newportpartnersllc.com

NEWPORT PARTNERS RECEIVES FOUR HUD GRANTS

Maryland Firm Will Support HUD on Key Housing Issues

Newport Partners LLC, a Davidsonville, Maryland-based housing consulting firm, was recently awarded four grants that total \$1,427,830 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The projects range from construction of the first model of the Concept Home to creating strategies that overcome barriers to affordable housing, to information technology for builders and a technology transfer program.

"I am so pleased that Newport Partners continues to play a role in cutting edge housing issues in America," said Liza K. Bowles, General Manager of Newport Partners LLC. "These projects span the spectrum of current housing issues and we look forward to assisting HUD with this important work."

The Concept Home is a high quality, affordable home model that is easily adaptable to lifestyle changes and technological advances. This grant is the third for the Concept Home program which is part of the Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH). Results from the first two years include schematic designs and final plans for prototype homes using the latest in housing technology and tools.

The Strategies for Overcoming Regulatory Barriers project will work to identify current local efforts to overcome regulatory barriers to affordable housing. A strategy will then be created and implemented on a national level to provide local public-private partnerships with the tools and technical assistance they need to be better equipped to provide affordable housing in their areas.

The Information Technology for Builders project will establish a baseline for tools that builders are using to support increasingly complex and integrated business operations.

"Homebuilders of all sizes rely on software and other IT tools to make information available to the people who need it and streamline their operations," said James Lyons, Newport Partners Senior Engineer. "This project will showcase where builders currently are in improving their operations and also identify what more they need from their IT tools."

The Technology Transfer program will create a framework for housing technology developers to partner with building product manufacturers in bringing new technology to market.

Newport Partners LLC, established in 2002, is a small business dedicated to providing analytical and technical services that support both the housing industry and public sector. Its services range from technology roadmapping and policy analysis to market research, analysis of energy and moisture performance, and code adoption.

###