

IIJ Awarded “Best Service Provider of Year 2002” in Nikkei Survey

-- Ranked #1 in three qualifying categories of Broadband, Dedicated Access and Dialup Access --

TOKYO, December 2, 2002 – Internet Initiative Japan Inc. (“IIJ”, NASDAQ: IIJ), Japan’s leading Internet access and comprehensive network solutions provider, today announced that the Company was awarded the title ‘best service provider of year 2002’ in a major annual survey conducted by Nikkei Communications, a leading telecom industry trade magazine. According to the survey, which encompassed responses from 856 corporations in Japan and was released today, IIJ was ranked number one in three of the four total qualifying categories — “broadband service,” “dedicated access service” and “dialup access service.” IIJ ranked number two in the remaining “web server hosting service” category. The 2002 results follow the Company’s number one rankings in 2001 in all three qualifying categories: “dedicated Access”, “dialup Access” and “hosting/housing”.

“I’m very pleased with this award as it is a result of our continuous effort of ensuring high quality services that earn the trust of customers,” said Koichi Suzuki, the President and CEO of IIJ. “As the broadband network environment becomes standard in Japan, our responsibility for securing high network performance and a safe network environment is bringing an increased appreciation for IIJ’s services. We will continue to pursue our advanced expertise in IP technology and to strengthen our position in the marketplace as a provider of unparalleled comprehensive network solutions.”

The Nikkei Communications survey consisted of questions on customer satisfaction in each qualifying category for 11 items including price, network stability, throughput, customer support, security, backbone capacity, operation, the number of access points, server management, value-added services and consulting capabilities. Following IIJ as the best service provider of year 2002, the survey respondents ranked Nifty second and NTT Communications third in broadband service; PoweredCom second and JENS third in dedicated access service; and NEC second and Nifty third in dialup access service.

About IIJ

Internet Initiative Japan Inc. (IIJ, NASDAQ: IIJ) is Japan's leading Internet-access and comprehensive network solutions provider. The company mainly targets high-end corporate customers. Founded in 1992, IIJ has built one of the largest Internet backbone networks in Japan, as well as between Japan and the United States. IIJ and its group of companies provide total network solutions that range from the delivery of new generation network services over an optical-fiber infrastructure that is optimized for data communications, to the construction of pan-Asian IP backbone networks. The company also offers high-quality Internet access, security system services, hosting/housing, and content design and systems integration.

The statements within this release contain forward-looking statements about our future plans that involve risk and uncertainties. These statements may differ materially from actual future events or results. Readers are referred to the documents filed by Internet Initiative Japan Inc. with the SEC, specifically the most recent reports on Forms 20-F and 6-K, which identify important risk factors that could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements.

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