More People Get "Unwired" To The Web

(NAPSA)—We're having a technological heat wave.

That's because America is home to a growing number of "hot spots." Popping up in places such as restaurants, hotels, public parks, college campuses and airports, hot spots are locations where businesspeople and consumers can tap into WiFi—short for "wireless fidelity" networks—with their notebook PCs to enjoy a truly mobile computing and communications experience without the constraint of a fixed or wired connection.

"WiFi promises to do for computing what cell phones did for voice communication," says Sean Maloney, Intel executive vice president and general manager of the Intel Communications Group. "It is eliminating boundaries and allowing people to access the Internet and communicate freely while they're on the go."

Intel recently identified U.S. cities where the unwired trend is quickly taking off. The most unwired city in America is Portland, Ore., where its residents are quickly embracing the new unwired lifestyle, evidenced in part by the region's growing number of hot spots.

Following Portland on Intel's list of the 10 most unwired cities are San Francisco; Austin, Texas; Seattle; Orange County, Calif.; Washington, D.C.; San Diego; Denver; Ventura, Calif.; and Boston. The West leads all other regions with eight metropolitan areas in the top 10.

Along with the rapid deployment of hotspots, analysts foresee dramatic growth in the sales of

A growing number of "hotspots" across the country allow for wireless Web action.

wireless-enabled notebook PCs. Market research firm IDC predicts that wireless-enabled notebooks will represent 35 percent of all mobile PC sales in 2003 and 96 percent in 2006.

Intel recently introduced Intel® Centrino™ mobile technology, a new mobile technology that integrates wireless capability into a new generation of mobile PCs that will bring business users and consumers greater freedom to connect in new places and in new ways.* Intel Centrino mobile technology includes a mobile processor, related chipsets and integrated wireless capability.

To learn more about Intel's "Unwired Cities" survey, visit the Web site at www.intel.com.

* Wireless connectivity and some features may require you to purchase additional software, services or external hardware. Availability of public wireless LAN access points limited. System performance, battery life, wireless performance and functionality will vary depending on your specific hardware and software configurations.