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MICROSOFT SELECTS SPARKHOUND INC. AS WINDOWS AZURE CIRCLE PARTNER

Baton Rouge, La. – Microsoft selected Sparkhound Inc., a Microsoft Gold Partner, to join the Windows Azure Circle Program, an exclusive group of managed partners who support Microsoft's Cloud platform. To become a Windows Azure Circle Partner, managed partners must demonstrate a strong partner relationship with Microsoft, have depth of experience and commit to develop solutions with the Windows Azure platform.

"We're honored to be recognized by Microsoft for our commitment to the Cloud," said Sparkhound President and CEO Shawn Usher. "Sparkhound has made significant investments in technology solutions like Microsoft's Cloud platform that provide our clients with a competitive advantage in their industry. Microsoft's recognition is one more reason why businesses in the Gulf South Region are choosing Sparkhound as their long-term technology partner."

Since the launch of Windows Azure in 2010, Sparkhound has led several Windows Azure projects, including all aspects of the design, development, implementation and support. Sparkhound was also one of the first companies to deliver and demonstrate an application showing the power of Windows Azure on Windows Phone 7 and Silverlight.

Sparkhound will lead additional Windows Azure projects in 2012 as more businesses look for virtual hosting, storage and web solutions. The global market for cloud computing is expected to grow from \$40.7 billion in 2011 to more than \$241 billion in 2020, according to research by Forrester.

About Sparkhound

With offices in Baton Rouge, Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth, Sparkhound Inc. was established in January 1998 with the goal of redefining how technology services are delivered in the marketplace. Sparkhound provides government and institutional agencies with business solutions including: Application Design and Development; Infrastructure Design and Development; Business Process Analysis; Project Management; Microsoft Windows Server; Microsoft Exchange; Microsoft Office SharePoint Server; and many other technologies. For more information, visit Sparkhound.com.