



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2004
Washington, DC

CONTACT:

Eric H. Smith
President, IIPA, (202) 833 4198

**THE U.S. COPYRIGHT INDUSTRIES' APPLAUD THE JANUARY 1, 2005
ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE U.S.-AUSTRALIAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA), comprised of six trade associations and their over 1,300 companies representing the U.S. copyright industries, applauds today's announcement that the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will enter into force on January 1, 2005.

"Implementation of the comprehensive obligations in this FTA will strengthen copyright law in Australia, and will also improve the legal tools available there for enforcement of copyright," said Eric H. Smith, IIPA President. "The beneficiaries of these improvements include creators and consumers of copyrighted works in both countries. This win-win deal will integrate Australia more fully into the global marketplace for copyrighted materials. This is good news for both the Australian and the U.S. economies." Four percent (4%) of the workforce in both the U.S. and Australia are employed in the copyright sector and the employment growth rate in this sector in both our countries exceeds that of the remainder of our economies. With these FTA obligations implemented in Australia (and already in place in the U.S.), we expect that growth to continue at an accelerated pace.

"The entry into force of the FTA ushers in a new phase of bilateral trade relations between the U.S. and Australia. We greatly appreciate the efforts made by both the U.S. and Australian governments to ensure that the necessary legislative and regulatory changes will be undertaken to fully implement the copyright and enforcement commitments in this agreement. IIPA and its member associations will continue to monitor the FTA implementation process very closely to make sure that the full benefits of this crucial agreement are realized."

About the IIPA: The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) is a coalition of six trade associations representing U.S. copyright-based industries in bilateral and multilateral efforts to open up foreign markets closed by piracy and other market access barriers. In October 2004, the IIPA released its latest economic report entitled *Copyright Industries in the U.S. Economy: The 2004 Report*, which details the economic impact and contributions of U.S. copyright industries to U.S. Gross Domestic Product, employment, and trade. In 2002, the U.S. "core" copyright industries accounted for an estimated 6% of U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP), or \$626.6 billion, and employed 4% of U.S. workers in 2002 or 5.48 million persons. Also in 2002, the U.S. copyright industries achieved foreign sales and exports estimated at \$89.26 billion, leading other major industry sectors such as: chemicals and related products, motor vehicles, equipment and parts, and aircraft and aircraft parts. For more info on this report and the IIPA, visit www.iipa.com.

#