

Contact Kenn Entringer at Casey Communications, 314/721-2828

**Scottrade, Inc. Selects Ascent Corp. as  
Program Director/Owner's Rep for Conception and Launch  
of New \$6 Million National Data Center in Metro St. Louis**

ST. LOUIS – Scottrade, Inc., a leading online brokerage firm headquartered in St. Louis, has selected St. Louis-based Ascent Corp. as program director/owner's representative for the design, deployment, construction and commissioning of a new \$6 million national data center in the St. Louis area.

The new data center will be deployed by Ascent in an existing building that is now being renovated to best-of-class standards. Scottrade currently hosts its existing data center in St. Louis County.

"This is the largest investment in new technology infrastructure Scottrade has ever made," said Jane Wulf, chief administrative officer of Scottrade. "We have a history of opening an average of two to three branches per month and we have plans for additional expansion beyond the 264 offices we currently operate. We have seen remarkable growth in recent years and because our technology and customer base is continually expanding, there is a real demand for a Tier-4 data center. Ascent's record of success in providing turnkey service on complex, mission-critical IT migration projects for companies like Savvis and Reuters gives us confidence in its ability."

The new 34,000-square-foot mission critical facility will feature:

- fully redundant electrical, mechanical and cooling systems to ensure that the facility will be able to sustain operations for an extended period in the event of electrical power loss;
- exterior physical and electronic security that will pre-screen approaching visitors;
- and an elaborate interior screening system including security man-traps, card-key-enable

checkpoints and motion-activated surveillance cameras. Biometric components will control access to critical areas.

Joining Ascent on the project are two other St. Louis firms, general contractor **Paric Corp.** and project architect **Arcturis.**

“Paric and Arcturis have proven themselves to Scottrade on previous fast-track assignments. We are delighted to team with them as we provide turnkey program management from pre-construction to commissioning,” said **Phil Horstmann**, president of Ascent.

In addition to project management, Ascent also provides 24/7 staffing, monitoring and maintenance of mission-critical facilities. Currently, it oversees facilities totaling 3.5 million square feet of space in 23 cities in North America and Europe.

“The comprehensiveness of our service from conceptualization to on-going reliability-focused operations oversight differentiates us in the industry,” Horstmann said.

Scottrade is a leader in online investing and is currently ranked Highest in Investor Satisfaction with Online Trading Services by **J.D. Power and Associates** ([www.jdpower.com](http://www.jdpower.com)). The October 2005 announcement was the sixth consecutive time Scottrade has received the honor. The firm serves individual investors who are comfortable making their own investment decisions.

Ascent Corp. designs, deploys and manages mission critical facilities and building technology infrastructure. It is based at 9643 Olive Blvd. in Olivette, Mo. (63132).

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