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City Council Commends Smart USA for Contributions to San Jose Economy

SAN JOSE, CALIF., April 22, 2008—Mayor Chuck Reed recognized Smart USA, in a commendation—presented at today’s San Jose City Council meeting—to welcome the Smart brand to San Jose and for its anticipated contributions to the San Jose economy, community and the San Jose Green Vision.

Smart USA, opened a smart center in San Jose, offering a vehicle that meets high safety standards, is energy efficient, uses recyclable materials, is classified as an Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle by the State of California Air Resources Board and still provides the simple joy of driving through a combination of innovation and functionality.

The City of San Jose commendation recognized Smart USA, for allowing residents the option to meet the San Jose Green Vision, not only through the use of cleaner technology but by creating a new sense of awareness, through encouraging thinking about one's own mobility behavior. Smart USA promotes acting more responsibly, ecological driving, protecting the environment, embracing energy efficiency and preserving natural resources.

The commendation presented by the Mayor and City Council is a part of San Jose's Business Appreciation Initiative, a key component of the City's *Economic Development Strategy*. This business-retention effort recognizes San Jose companies that meet at least one of the following criteria: fast-growth, significant sales tax generator, large employer, or publicly traded company headquartered in San Jose.

For more information on the City of San Jose’s *Economic Development Strategy*, visit <http://www.sjeconomy.com>.

About Smart USA

Since production began in 1998, over 800,000 vehicles have been sold in 37 countries. San Jose is one of 74 United States dealerships “smart centers” that opened this year. The company is a subsidiary of Daimler-Benz AG. Smart distributes a product produced at a production center with energy efficient environmentally sound buildings, using only environmental sensitive water-soluble, powder paints, fully recyclable body panels, promoting not only recycling but avoiding waste in the first place and working with environmentally smart suppliers.

About the City of San Jose’s Office of Economic Development

The City of San Jose's Office of Economic Development (OED) is committed to a vital, competitive San Jose economy that increases prosperity for people and companies and enhances City revenues. The Office guides the City's economic strategy, provides assistance for business success, helps connect employers with trained workers, and provides art, sporting and cultural resources to our community. For more information, please visit, www.sjeconomy.com.

About the City of San Jose

From its founding in 1777 as California's first city, San Jose has been a leader, driven by its spirit of innovation. Today, San Jose stands as the largest city in Northern California and the Capital of Silicon Valley—the world's leading center of innovation. The city, the 10th largest in the U.S., is ranked the most competitive knowledge economy by the World Competitive Knowledge Index. San Jose, home to Cisco, Adobe, eBay, BEA, Xilinx and Cadence, has one of the most diversified innovation-based economic communities that spans seven core technology sectors, with 1,500 of the 2,500 largest technology firms in the world located within 30 miles of Downtown San Jose. The City’s economic strategy focuses on small companies and start-ups with potential to become global leader and is complemented by the largest comprehensive incubator program in the nation, including the Software Business Cluster, Environmental Business Cluster, US Market Access Center for international business, and San Jose BioCenter. For more information, visit, www.sanjoseca.gov.

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