



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Viking Range Corporation Selects Hitachi Consulting To Help Keep Them on Top**

***Hitachi Consulting engaged by Viking Range to implement Oracle 11i based solution***

Hitachi Consulting, a Hitachi, Ltd. (NYSE: HIT) company, today announced that Viking Range Corporation has engaged them to implement a leading edge business solution to facilitate future growth. Viking is a privately held company, headquartered in Greenwood, Mississippi, which manufactures and markets fine professional kitchen appliances for the home. This solution, based on the Oracle 11i suite of software, includes: financials, discrete manufacturing, supply chain planning, customer relationship management, and HR/payroll.

Hitachi Consulting was initially selected to evaluate the Viking ebusiness strategy and to facilitate an ERP selection process. Both initiatives were an integral part of the Viking Range strategy to manage their aggressive growth plans in both the domestic and international markets. Hitachi Consulting was chartered to understand and validate the Viking ebusiness strategy and provide salient strategic recommendations, and to evaluate potential ERP business solutions and facilitate a selection which would best meet the current and future business needs of Viking Range Corporation.

"The process that Hitachi Consulting led us through clearly demonstrated that the Oracle 11i suite would meet our needs today and into the future," said Brian Waldrop, Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President - Finance for Viking. "As important, it proved to us that Hitachi Consulting was the best solutions partner to help us realize the return on this important investment."

Following this engagement, Viking chose to team with Hitachi Consulting in the implementation of the solution, whose first phase goes into operation early in the 3rd quarter of 2002 and will be deployed to 12 locations in the US, Canada and France. Hitachi Consulting will manage the implementation of the Oracle 11i applications by employing their TRANSFORM methodology. TRANSFORM leverages the Oracle AIM and FastForward methodologies extensively from a process, tools and deliverables approach.

"Viking, as a market leader, is very particular when choosing a solutions provider," said Joe Prats, Vice President for Hitachi Consulting. "They have challenged us every step of the way to show measurable, sustainable return on investment, before proceeding. I am proud to say Hitachi Consulting has been equal to that challenge. It is a pleasure to work with a quality client like Viking Range Corporation."

The Hitachi Consulting depth and leadership as an Oracle solution provider has been broadly recognized.

As one of the first Oracle Service Providers, they have built strong credentials with more than 100 client engagements nationwide since 1996. As an official Certified Solution Partner (CSP), they have the expertise Oracle requires to implement all of its 11i E-Business Suite.

### **About Hitachi Consulting**

Hitachi Consulting is Hitachi, Ltd.'s (NYSE: HIT) global business and IT consulting company. The company serves Fortune 2000 companies across many industries throughout the United States. The company is focused on working with its clients to understand their needs and to enable and implement key business strategies. Hitachi Consulting delivers practical solutions to generate demand, ensure supply and help the client manage their enterprise effectively. The company is committed to delivering measurable results and to effectively transferring knowledge to optimize the client's investments.

To find out more about how Hitachi Consulting can inspire your next success, please call 1.877.664.0010 or visit us at [www.hitachiconsulting.com](http://www.hitachiconsulting.com)

### **About Hitachi**

Hitachi, Ltd., headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, is a leading global electronics company, with approximately 320,000 employees worldwide. Fiscal 2001 (ended March 31, 2002) consolidated sales totaled 7,994 billion yen (\$60.1 billion). The company offers a wide range of systems, products and services in numerous market sectors, including information systems, electronic devices, power and industrial systems, consumer products, materials and financial services. For more information on Hitachi, please visit the company's Web site at <http://www.hitachi.com>.

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