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PCI SECURITY STANDARDS COUNCIL PCI PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM (PCIP)™ TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE

- New eLearning course offers individuals opportunity to build PCI expertise and earn industry-recognized credentials-

WAKEFIELD, **Mass**., November 01, 2012, Year—The PCI Security Standards Council (PCI SSC), a global, open industry standards body providing management of the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS), PIN Transaction Security (PTS) requirements and the Payment Application Data Security Standard (PA-DSS), today announced availability of the eLearning training course for the PCI Professional (PCIP)™ Program. Eligible individuals can register for the PCIP program by visiting the PCI SSC website.

In response to the industry's request for a transferable PCI qualification that is not linked to an employer, earlier in the year the Council introduced this PCI individual accreditation program for industry professionals to improve PCI expertise across the industry.

PCIP training is comprised of a self-paced eLearning course focused on PCI Standards and PCI DSS foundational topics and procedures including:

- Principles of PCI DSS, PA-DSS, PTS, P2PE, and PIN Security
- Understanding PCI DSS v2.0 requirements and intent
- Overview of basic payment industry terminology
- Appropriate uses of compensating controls
- How and when to use Self-Assessment Questionnaires (SAQs)
- Recognizing how new technologies affect PCI DSS (P2PE, tokenization, mobile, cloud)
- PCI Code of Professional Responsibility

—more—

The course content also includes PCI case studies for application, as well as a list of recommended resources available for further study.

Pre-requisites for participation include a minimum of two years relevant work experience in an IT or IT related role and a base level of knowledge and awareness of information technology, network security and architecture, and the payment industry. Interested PCIP program candidates should review the PCIP Qualification Requirements available in the PCI SSC Documents Library and then submit the application form on the website:

Candidates will have 30 days to successfully complete the training and then can schedule to take the exam locally at one of more than 4,000 Pearson VUE Testing Centers worldwide. PCIPs will be then be listed on the Council's website as part of a global directory of qualified professionals. PCIPs will also receive continuing education credits, with requalification training required every two years as part of the PCIP program.

The program not only offers the opportunity to build new skills for those early in their careers, but also gives more experienced professionals the chance to achieve PCI accreditation by taking the exam only. Additionally, Internal Security Assessors (ISAs) and Qualified Security Assessors (QSAs) in good standing can choose to add the individual PCIP credential to recognize their already proven level of expertise. This accreditation is available to ISAs and QSAs through registration with PCI SSC for a nominal fee.

"We talk a lot about how one of the biggest challenges we face when it comes to security is education and building awareness," said Bob Russo, general manager, PCI Security Standards Council. "With more than 800 individuals already signed up for this new program, we're excited to be building an even greater, more knowledgeable base to help us drive understanding of the PCI Standards across the industry for better security."

For more information on the PCIP program, participation requirements, pricing and available discounts, please visit the training section of the PCI SSC website. Questions? Email us at training@pcisecuritystandards.org.

About the PCI Security Standards Council

The PCI Security Standards Council is an open global forum that is responsible for the development, management, education, and awareness of the PCI Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) and other standards that increase payment data security. Founded in 2006 by the major payment card brands American Express, Discover Financial Services, JCB International, MasterCard Worldwide and Visa Inc., the Council has over 600 Participating Organizations representing merchants, banks, processors and vendors worldwide. To learn more about playing a part in securing payment card data globally, please visit: http://pcisecuritystandards.org.

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