



MEDIA RELEASE

Bringing the IT Industry together – The Vanco Adventure Challenge 2006

LONDON, 17 January 2006 – Vanco, the pioneering global Virtual Network Operator (VNO), and humanitarian organisation CARE International are pleased to announce the 2006 Vanco Adventure Challenge, which takes place on 15-16 July.

This prestigious two-day multi-activity event is exclusively for corporate teams within the IT Industry. Each team of four people is challenged with hiking, biking and canoeing their way round the Lake District, but also raising a minimum of £5,000 for CARE International's overseas project work. The fundraising is a challenge in itself, yet the organisations that have participated over the years including Interflora, Barclays, Debenhams, HSBC, Gap, Exxon Mobil, or Cap Gemini have regularly exceeded this target. All participants are supported every step in the run-up to the event, with fitness and training plans, tips and advice on fundraising.

Day One of the event weekend begins on Derwent Water, with a two-hour canoeing and orienteering challenge, and continues with some serious mountain biking. The day ends with teams hiking Skiddaw – England's second highest mountain (931m). Day Two involves a second canoeing and orienteering challenge, this time on Coniston Water, moving to nearby Grizedale Forest, where teams will be tasked with a further mountain biking challenge. The final leg of this tough and exciting adventure involves a climb up the Old Man of Coniston. Teams will cover a distance of 80km over the weekend, with a target time of 24 hours to complete the Challenge.

"Twenty hours of trial and adventure in the outback of Britain will reveal more about your colleagues than a hundred brainstorming sessions, and realise just how good a team it is", comments Kevin Patterson, IT Finance & Contracts Manager at National Car Rental.

This Adventure Challenge is sponsored by Vanco, which means that all funds raised can go to CARE's overseas development work. The event aims to raise £100,000. Allen Timpany, Managing Director of Vanco, explains: "Vanco is delighted to support the tremendous work of CARE with an exciting new outdoor experience for IT professionals in the UK. The Vanco Adventure Challenge is about team building: making choices, setting achievable targets, planning strategy, deploying resources, communication and leadership skills. It will be a tough but satisfying experience for all the teams. With this event Vanco continues its successful relationship with a charity whose causes are very worthy of support."

Mike Bartlett, Head of Challenge Events at CARE, added: "Vanco's ongoing commitment to CARE, and the important contribution of all the teams involved, continues to support our much-needed work around the world. This includes rebuilding communities devastated by the Kashmir earthquake, alongside ongoing longer-term initiatives such as micro-credit schemes in India and Afghanistan, and water and sanitation projects in Tanzania."

Teams are invited to take part by visiting www.challengeseries.org.uk / www.vanco.com (media section), or calling 020 7934 9470 / 020 8636 2942.

About Vanco:

Established in 1988, Vanco plc (FTSE: VAN) is the pioneering and leading global Virtual Network Operator. Vanco does not own telecoms assets and therefore has the freedom to source infrastructure from the most suitable Asset Based Carriers (ABCs) on a global basis. It provides enterprise clients as well as carriers, directly or through partners, with cost-effective, optimized and fully managed network solutions. Carriers can also extend their off-net reach by accessing, through Vanco, other carrier networks around the world. With solutions available in 230 countries and territories, Vanco is selected by the world's largest organizations to provide strategic network solutions. Its clients include Accor Hotels, Avis Europe, British Airways, Ford Motor Company, IBM/Lloyds TSB, Siemens, Pilkington and Virgin Retail.

About CARE International:

CARE International is an international relief and development agency working with impoverished communities in about 70 countries worldwide, reaching over 45 million people every year. CARE programmes promote positive and lasting change and avoid long-term dependency. CARE also provides emergency relief to survivors of natural disasters and conflicts, including the Asian tsunami (Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, India, Somalia), the devastating earthquake in India/Pakistan and the Southern African countries affected by the ongoing food shortages. For more information, visit www.careinternational.org.uk.

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