

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Sabrina McLaughlin, APR  
850.712.0538 (cell)  
[sabrina@insightfulconcepts.com](mailto:sabrina@insightfulconcepts.com)

## **First-In-The-Nation Internet Voting Project Success for Overseas Voters**

November 10, 2008 - Fort Walton Beach, Fla. - Operation BRAVO (Bring Remote Access to Voters Overseas) Foundation announced the successful completion of its first pilot project for overseas voters. The Foundation partnered with the Supervisor of Elections of Okaloosa County, Florida, and SCYTL Secure Electronic Voting, to develop and field a groundbreaking electronic absentee voting system.

The Okaloosa Distance Balloting Pilot (ODBP) placed supervised voting kiosks in three overseas locations. Two kiosk workers set up and operated the system at each site. Voters used touch-screen laptop computers to make their selections and could review a paper record of their choices before casting their vote. All ballots were digitally signed by the voters, then encrypted and transported to a secure data center using a Virtual Private Network channel on the Internet. The Okaloosa County Canvassing Board decrypted and tabulated the 93 ballots cast. A manual count of 100% of the races for all the paper records and comparison of the result with the electronic tabulation validated the system's performance. All records matched.

"The disenfranchisement of overseas voters has been recognized as a problem since the Korean War, but the federal government has not adequately addressed this problem," said Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections Pat Hollarn. In her twenty years of service Hollarn has been nationally recognized as an innovator in finding better solutions for Okaloosa County's large overseas military and civilian population. "Overseas voters are not well-served by the current by-mail absentee voting process. The only reliable way to reach overseas voters is by electronic means," Hollarn added.

SCYTL Secure Electronic Voting is a worldwide leader in the development of secure electronic voting solutions. SCYTL systems have been used in Spain, Switzerland, Finland, the Philippines, Argentina and numerous other countries. Their innovative voting solutions are built using cryptographic technology, making them highly secure and fully auditable. No special equipment is needed in the polling place. The ODBP system was very easy for kiosk workers to set up and operate with only a few hours of training.

The voters reported the system also was very easy for them to use. One commented: "This is a great way to make military families feel part of the election process! If at all possible, this should be the norm and not the exception." Another voter noted: "This establishes my confidence that my vote will be received in time for the election." And another: "I trust the Internet more than the postal service."

*The Operation BRAVO Foundation has been organized exclusively for the charitable purpose of helping overseas civilian and military citizens effectively exercise their Constitutional right to vote. The foundation is dedicated to finding solutions to enable these voters to fully participate in this most fundamental of democratic activities. Operation BRAVO's mission is to foster the exploration and development of practical and reproducible electronic alternatives that can significantly improve the overseas absentee voting process.*

###



Sabrina McLaughlin, APR  
PR Consultant

850.936.4615 (office)  
850.201.6772 (fax)

[Sabrina@insightfulconcepts.com](mailto:Sabrina@insightfulconcepts.com)