

# News Release

## Contacts

Dewey Hammond  
Edelman  
Phone: 415-486-3211  
dewey.hammond@edelman.com

Mike Peterson  
Charles Schwab & Co.  
Phone: 330-908-4334  
mike.peterson@schwab.com

## **CHARLES SCHWAB CORPORATE SERVICES INTRODUCES EQUITY AWARD CENTER**

Enhanced Web site resource for navigating complexity of equity compensation benefits

**SAN FRANCISCO – August 31, 2004** – Charles Schwab Corporate Services today introduced Schwab Equity Award Center™, a newly enhanced online resource where plan sponsors and plan participants can learn about, model and conduct transactions related to employee equity compensation benefits. The site provides extensive, interactive educational tools and expanded transactional capabilities.

Formerly known as the Schwab OptionCenter®, the new site mirrors the industry-wide shift to a broader array of equity awards, including restricted stock units.

“Stock options are just one form of equity compensation, and we wanted Schwab Equity Award Center to reflect that diversity and offer appropriate functionality,” said Dale Kalman, director of Schwab Stock Plan Services. “As equity compensation benefits become increasingly complex, Schwab Equity Award Center offers plan sponsors and participants more advanced tools to better manage and model stock plan awards.”

In addition to equity award views and online grant acceptance, the newly enhanced Schwab Equity Award Center now offers expanded viewing and transaction capabilities for restricted stock units). The site also features a new message center that enables both Schwab and the participating company to send individualized and companywide messages that can range from general updates to specific grant expiration reminders.

The site also hosts the KnowledgeCenter<sup>1</sup>, which provides educational materials, generic tax guides and self-paced tutorials to help explain the intricacies of equity compensation. Schwab Equity Award Center also offers modeling capabilities to help participants understand the value of their grants and ease the demands on plan administrators.

Visit <http://equityawardcenter.schwab.com> for more information.

## **About Charles Schwab Corporate Services**

Charles Schwab Corporate Services provides individual investing support services through employers, including employee retirement and stock option plans, IRA rollovers and individual/personal accounts.

---

<sup>1</sup> The information and content provided is general in nature and is for informational purposes only. It is not intended, and should not be construed, as a recommendation, or legal, tax, or investment advice, or a legal opinion. You should contact your tax advisor or other professional to help answer questions about your specific situation or needs prior to taking any action based upon this information.

Charles Schwab Corporate Services also offers retirement plan services including recordkeeping and related services through Schwab Retirement Plan Services, Inc., proprietary retirement plan recordkeeping systems through Schwab Retirement Technologies<sup>®</sup>, trustee and custodial services through The Charles Schwab Trust Company, and the Schwab Personal Choice Retirement Account<sup>®</sup> (PCRA) (self-directed brokerage account through Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.). These entities are affiliates of each other and are wholly owned subsidiaries of The Charles Schwab Corporation. Total client assets in employer-sponsored retirement plans at Schwab equaled \$121 billion at the end of June 2004.

The Charles Schwab Corporation (NYSE:SCH), through Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (Member SIPC/NYSE), U.S. Trust Corporation, CyberTrader, Inc. (Member SIPC/NASD) and its other operating subsidiaries, is one of the nation's largest financial services firms.

###  
(0804-11187)