

**HCL TECHNOLOGIES FORMS SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT JOINT VENTURE
WITH JONES APPAREL GROUP, INC.**

Strategic Initiative to boost presence in the retail vertical

New Delhi, June 26, 2002— HCL Technologies announced today, the formation of a strategic technology joint venture with Jones Apparel Group, Inc. (NYSE – JNY). Jones Apparel Group, Inc. a Fortune 500 company, is a leading designer and marketer of branded apparel, footwear and accessories.

Strengthens presence in the retail and wholesale apparel domain

The joint venture is a pioneering initiative, in synergy with HCL Technologies' rebalanced business portfolio and growth strategy, wherein the company has identified the retail vertical as a high focus area. Worldwide, an increased surge in IT spending in the retail segment is manifesting itself and the market is expected to grow to USD 35 billion by 2005.

The equity holding of HCL Jones Technologies, as the new company will be christened, is structured at HCL Tech 51% and Jones Apparel Group at 49%. The Joint Venture will significantly augment HCL Technologies' expertise in the retail vertical, bringing together the domain knowledge of Jones Apparel Group, which has built a reputation over the years for excellence in operational execution, with HCL Technologies' high-quality offshore delivery capability and composite technology bandwidth. This synergy of strengths should position the Joint Venture as a premier IT solutions provider in the emerging global retail market space.

HCL Jones Technologies will provide development, maintenance and implementation services to various divisions of Jones Apparel Group, Inc. as well as other companies in the retail and wholesale apparel space. The joint venture would also productize its offerings for additional business and revenues.

Strong commitment from both parties

Jones Apparel Group, Inc. will bring resources, retail domain expertise and a committed revenue stream to the venture. HCL Technologies will contribute capital and offshore services expertise.

The initial core team and domain expertise will come from Jones Apparel Group, Inc. A team of information technology specialists and software architects experienced in the retail, wholesale apparel, footwear and accessories businesses are being transferred from Jones Apparel Group, Inc. to HCL Jones Technologies, thus ensuring experienced talent to lead the company. The current Jones Apparel Group, Inc. Chief Technology Officer, Paul Lanham, will serve as the Chief Executive Officer of HCL Jones Technologies. Mr. Lanham will continue in his duties as Chief Technology Officer of Jones Apparel Group, Inc.

“Our enhanced focus on the retail services market is a strategic move, in line with market dynamics and critical to our leadership in IT services. The new joint venture will leverage Jones Apparel Group’s retail competency and their management team’s ability to innovate and execute aggressively. Together with HCL Technologies’ robust offshore delivery capability and considerable expertise in the retail domain, this will give HCL Technologies a strong competitive advantage and enable increased market access”, **said Shiv Nadar, Chairman, President and CEO of HCL Technologies.**

“The retail sector has always been one of the fast adopters of technology and now it is reaching a level of maturity that demands innovative service models”, **commented Paul Lanham, incumbent Chief Executive Officer of HCL Jones Technologies.** Mr. Lanham further stated, “Given our experience in the retail and wholesale apparel sector and HCL Technologies’ proven expertise and competence in technology, the joint venture is a perfect strategic fit for both companies.”

About Jones Apparel Group, Inc.

Jones Apparel Group, Inc., a Fortune 500 company, is a leading designer and marketer of branded apparel, footwear and accessories. The Company's nationally recognized brands include: Jones New York; Lauren by Ralph Lauren, Ralph by Ralph Lauren, and Polo Jeans Company, which are licensed from Polo Ralph Lauren Corporation; Evan-Picone, Rena Rowan, Norton McNaughton, Erika, Energie, Gloria Vanderbilt, Currants, Jamie Scott, Todd Oldham, Nine West, Easy Spirit, Enzo Angiolini, Bandolino, Napier and Judith Jack. The Company also markets costume jewelry under the Tommy Hilfiger brand licensed from Tommy Hilfiger Corporation and the Givenchy brand licensed from Givenchy Corporation. Celebrating more than 30 years of service, the Company has built a reputation for excellence in product quality and value, and in operational execution. For more information, visit Jones Apparel Group at www.jny.com.

About HCL Technologies

HCL Technologies is one of India's leading global IT services and product engineering companies, providing value-added, software-led IT solutions and services to large and medium-scale organizations. Founded in 1991, HCL Technologies focuses on technology as well as R&D outsourcing, with the objective of working with clients in areas at the core of their business. HCL Technologies delivers these services through an extensive offshore software development infrastructure and a vast global marketing network that enables scaleable, flexible and cost-effective delivery. As of March 31, 2002, HCL Technologies Limited along with its subsidiaries had 5,945 employees. The HCL Technologies team today has operations spanning 25 locations in 14 countries — covering over 80% of the world's IT market. Together with its knowledge of embedded systems, core technologies and applications development expertise, HCL Technologies is positioned, as a composite solutions provider equipped to cater to the entire gamut of IT needs. For more information, visit HCL Technologies at www.hcltech.com.

Certain statements in this release are forward-looking statements, which involve a number of risks, and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in such forward-looking statements. The risks and uncertainties relating to these statements include, but are not limited to, risks and uncertainties regarding fluctuations in earnings, our ability to manage growth, intense competition in IT services including those factors which may affect our cost advantage, wage increases in India, our ability to attract and retain highly skilled professionals, time and cost overruns on fixed-price, fixed-time frame contracts, client concentration, restrictions on immigration, our ability to manage our international operations, reduced demand for technology in our key focus areas, disruptions in telecommunication networks, our ability to successfully complete and integrate potential acquisitions, liability for damages on our service contracts, the success of the companies/ entities in which we have made strategic investments, withdrawal of governmental fiscal incentives, political instability, legal restrictions on raising capital or acquiring companies outside India, and unauthorized use of our intellectual property and general economic conditions affecting our industry. The company does not undertake to update any forward-looking statement that may be made from time to time by or on behalf of the company.