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## The Open Group, Connecting Businesses Through Interoperability Mark Hamill Hosts Special Report

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**July 24, 2001 - Boca Raton, FL** - Mark Hamill, star of Star Wars, hosts another upcoming episode of the **“.com”** series, scheduled to air as paid programming on CNBC, Saturday, July 28 at Noon Eastern Time. Now in its sixth season, **“.com”** explores the latest technological innovations and the rapidly evolving Internet landscape.

The program includes a special report entitled, ***Interoperability, Business Necessity***, which discovers how bringing together buyers and suppliers of information technology is lowering the time, cost and risks associated with integrating new technology -- announced Jim Wilhelm, Executive Producer of the series.

As our business world and the systems we need to support it get more complex, demanding and productive, it's crucial for systems to interoperate. A serious interoperability problem can be enough to cripple a company while costing big money. The Open Group makes interoperability a reality in businesses worldwide by bringing together vendors and buyers to focus on specific problems. Through strategic partnerships between makers of new technology and those that use it, today's businesses are learning the best way to move "state-of-the-art" to the next level. Explore the new generation of business integration and interoperability.

"Partnerships and mergers have become a fact of life. Integration and interoperability are now necessities," said Ron Godfrey, Executive Producer of the series. "Businesses no longer have the luxury of carefully choosing partners from within our their industry circle. Thanks to The Open Group businesses can unite through partnerships that ultimately affect the bottom line."

In addition to national broadcast on **“.com,”** the special report will be reformatted and distributed via satellite as a Video News Release to over 750 domestic television stations. Like all of TVI's productions, the story is available for viewing on the Internet.

The “.com” viewer site, [www.tvi.net](http://www.tvi.net), allows visitors to watch *Interoperability*, *Business Necessity* and other stories in their entirety, on-demand and in full motion video, after the program has aired. From the site, visitors may “Join .com” by signing up for the email newsletter.

Hamill regularly anchors the “.com” series which is produced and paid for by TV Interactive, an e-quisitor plc company. TV Interactive is an International leader in production and distribution of multi-media television programming. Founded in 1995, TVI was the world's first independent television production company to fully integrate the power of Web broadcasting with original television programming.

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