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PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marion County Assessor Announces The Schneider Corporation's Beacon™ Upgrade

Knoxville, Iowa – (June 29, 2011) – The Marion County Assessor today announced its' implementation of The Schneider Corporation's enhanced Beacon™ map engine.

The upgrade to the Marion County Beacon™ website will occur during the week of July 4th – 8th. The Marion County Beacon™ website can be found at www.marioncountyia.org. Additional information about the upgrade can be found at www.schneidercorp.com/beaconupgrade.

The Marion County Assessor is updating the existing Beacon™ map engine that will enhance the user experience when working with the map, improving existing and expanding functionality that the users are accustomed to using. This upgrade of the Beacon™ map engine is now able to support multiple map server technologies, like ArcServer dynamic and tile caches, WMS, ESRI Base Maps, Google base maps, along with other pluggable architectures. It can support all modern map services, as well as easily adapting to future services. As an industry leading application, Beacon™ map engine works on multiple platforms, including all modern mobile devices. Users will see improved navigation, new tools, and expanded map; therefore, harnessing the best parts of back-end technologies and data services, delivering a seamless experience to all.

The Marion County Assessor's office has long been at the forefront of using the Internet to provide information and assistance to the citizens of Marion County and beyond. Under the guidance of former Assessor Phyllis Mott, Marion County was one of the earliest adopters of the Beacon™ website concept of blending parcel data, property tax information, and GIS mapping, updated nightly, into one website.

Beacon™ gives users 24/7 access to a variety of integrated local government data including GIS, appraisal and tax information, and the data is updated daily. Beacon™ streamlines how the public interfaces with local government offices by consolidating searches of multiple offices into just one query that can be conducted from any

computer or mobile device. The result is a more efficient way to obtain up-to-date information, as well as providing search, reporting and printer-friendly features

Beacon™ is used by over 250,000 unique users monthly searching more than 200 local governments, accessing 6.5 million parcels with an assessed value of \$803 billion. On average, it saves individual user communities more than 25 hours per day in staff time-the equivalent of three full-time employees-normally spent servicing requests for the information now available on a self-service basis via the Beacon™ portal.

About **The Schneider Corporation**

The Schneider Corporation provides creative solutions for land, infrastructure and facilities projects that help increase revenue, lower costs and mitigate risk. Schneider is a leader in providing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) solutions to hundreds of municipal, county, state, federal and private entities. Our additional expertise in engineering, surveying and architecture enables us to offer an integrated approach to complex projects. A woman-owned business for decades, Schneider is recognized nationally for its award-winning work. For more information about Schneider, please visit www.schneidercorp.com. For more information about Schneider GIS solutions, please visit gis.schneidercorp.com.