

D. E. Shaw Group Announces It Will Vote Against Merger of MCI and Verizon

NEW YORK, September 16, 2005—The D. E. Shaw group today announced its intention to vote its 10,135,319 million shares of MCI, Inc. (Nasdaq:MCIP) common stock against the company's proposed merger with Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE:VZ) The proposed merger will be the subject of a special vote at a meeting of MCI stockholders scheduled for October 6, 2005.

D. E. Shaw & Co., L.P. believes that the current transaction undervalues MCI and is inadequate given the offers MCI has previously received and rejected.

Headquartered in New York, the D. E. Shaw group is a specialized investment and technology development firm whose activities center on various aspects of the intersection between technology and finance. With approximately \$17 billion in aggregate capital, the D. E. Shaw group is a recognized leader in the alternative investment management arena and was recently named "Best Alternative Investment House" by *Euromoney* magazine.

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