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William Richards joins Eastern Insurance as senior vice president

NATICK, August 23, 2007 – Eastern Insurance Group LLC announced today the appointment of William J. Richards as senior vice president and sales executive in the technology division.

With more than 25 years experience in the insurance industry, Richards will join the Eastern Technology Group located in Boston. The technology group focuses on the unique insurance and risk management challenges that high-tech, life sciences, and emerging growth industries face.

“We are delighted with the knowledge and experience that Bill brings to Eastern Insurance as we continue to grow our Eastern Technology Group practice,” said Mark Levine, executive vice president of commercial lines. “Bill enjoys a great reputation within the insurance industry and we are proud to have someone of Bill's caliber and ability representing our client's insurance needs.”

Prior to joining Eastern, Richards held a similar position for ten years at William Gallagher Associates, specializing in clients with complex risk profiles. Before that, he held the position of senior vice president at Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., where he worked with a wide variety of clients to design and implement both conventional and alternative risk management programs. He recently co-authored a white paper on Internet risk management, and has been actively involved in the Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council.

Richards also serves on the board of directors for the Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre in Cambridge, involved in strategic planning and fundraising.

Founded in 1935 and headquartered in Natick, Eastern Insurance Group LLC is one of the largest insurance agencies in the nation, serving more than 65,000 consumers and businesses. Eastern Insurance provides a full range of personal and commercial insurance products, and employee benefits services including group health and life insurance, disability insurance, and 401(k) planning. A subsidiary of Eastern Bank, Eastern Insurance has 21 offices, including 19 in Massachusetts. For more information, visit www.easterninsurance.com.

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