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**WorkPlace Systems receives 'Positive' Rating in leading Analysts
Retail MarketScope and increases investment in Retail sector**

Milton Keynes, 23rd February 2006 – Leading analyst firm Gartner Inc. has rated WorkPlace Systems plc (WSI.L) as 'Positive' in its recent MarketScope for Retail Time and Labor Applications. The report was written by leading retail IT analysts Gale Daikoku and James Holincheck and published on January 20, 2006.

“We are very encouraged by this 'Positive' rating as it reflects our commitment and success in the Retail market” said Ian Lenagan, CEO of WorkPlace Systems plc. WorkPlace was able to satisfy all of the MarketScope's Time and Labor categories comprising: Budgeting, Forecasting, Scheduling, Task Management, Time and Attendance, Reporting/Analytics and Employee Self Service. “Our Retail customers' have large and complex workforce management challenges and by working closely with them, we help them realise the true benefits and value of Workforce Management by increasing customer service levels and optimising labour costs.” explains Lenagan.

WorkPlace Systems continues to invest in its retail business and has strengthened its UK Sales team in the Retail and Hospitality Sectors with 3 new additions, Andy Burgess from Aruna, Dick McDaniell from Vidus and Myles Rose from RightNow Technologies. This follows on from WorkPlaces' recent acquisition of LSI Consulting, a leading US based labour management consultancy specialising in retail workforce management.

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LSI help retailers to achieve best practices in this critical area of their business through a full set of strategic and tactical Workforce Management business improvement services and tools. “The retail market is very buoyant for us. In the last 9 months we have seen a significant increase in incremental business from our existing customers such as Argos, Next and Metro and a growing pipeline of new opportunities from leading retailers in both the European and US market. This proves our customers are realising true value from their investment in WorkPlace Systems solutions.” continues Lenagan.

Gartner’s MarketScope confirms that the interest in Retail Workforce Management is “expected to grow as web based solutions mature and leading retailers use technology-optimised workforces to improve productivity and deliver a differentiated value proposition.” WorkPlace Systems continues to make a significant investment in research and development to meet and exceed the needs of its’ customers and bring new products and techniques to market. For example, the new WorkPlace ChangePlanner module, which provides retailers with a strategic scheduling tool to quickly optimise existing and new store labour schedules. “WorkPlace ChangePlanner has already made an impact with some of our customers and we are delighted that it has been nominated as a finalist in the Microsoft Retail Application Development (RAD) Awards” concluded Lenagan.

About the Gartner MarketScope

The MarketScope is copyrighted Jan. 20, 2006 by Gartner, Inc. and is reused with permission. The MarketScope is an evaluation of a marketplace at and for a specific time period. It depicts Gartner’s analysis of how certain vendors measure against criteria for that marketplace, as defined by Gartner. Gartner does not endorse any vendor, product or service depicted in the MarketScope, and does not advise technology users to select only those vendors with the highest rating. Gartner disclaims all warranties, express or implied, with respect to this research, including any warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

About WorkPlace Systems

WorkPlace Systems was founded in 1986 and is listed on the London Stock Exchange (WSI), WorkPlace is a leading supplier of Workforce Management software and of consulting solutions which increase customer service significantly and reduce labor costs. The WorkPlace product set is a fully integrated, web-based suite of Workforce

Management software which services the strategic requirements for Budgeting and Labor Modeling in addition to the operational demands of Labor Forecasting, Scheduling, Time and Attendance and Performance Reporting. With a particular focus in Retail, Hospitality, Emergency Services and Transportation, WorkPlace has been implemented in some of the largest and most complex workforce management environments in the world. Clients in the retail and hospitality industry include: Argos, IKEA (UK), Littlewoods, Metro Cash & Carry, Rank Group, Safeway, Sports Café, Whitbread Restaurants, Woolworths (SA), World Duty Free. WorkPlace Systems is headquartered in the UK and has regional offices in Italy, Australia and the USA. For more information visit: www.workplace-systems.com

About Microsoft

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realise their full potential.

About Microsoft EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa)

Microsoft has operated in EMEA since 1982. In the region Microsoft employs more than 12,000 people in over 55 subsidiaries, delivering products and services in more than 139 countries and territories.

About Microsoft Smarter Retailing

Microsoft Smarter Retailing helps retailers win today by leveraging current investments, and win tomorrow by easing delivery of new retail experiences. Consisting of Smarter Shopping, Smarter Selling and Smarter Operations, Microsoft Smarter Retailing is designed to close the loop between the retailer's strategy, the in-store execution and familiar technologies already in the consumer's hands. More information can be found at <http://www.microsoft.com/smarteretail>.