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## IIJ to Introduce a Stock Option Plan

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Tokyo, March 23, 2000 - Internet Initiative Japan Inc. (IIJ; headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; president: Koichi Suzuki; NASDAQ: IIJI) announced today that it will introduce a stock option plan in April, 2000, subject to the approval of the shareholders by resolution at a shareholders' meeting to be held on April 7, 2000. The stock option plan will be for a total of 295 shares or 590,000 ADS equivalents, which is approximately 1.2% of the total shares currently outstanding. The options will be granted to directors and management. The stock option exercise price will be approximately 5% above of fair market value at the time of approval. The options will be exercisable at various times beginning in 2 years and extending for a period of 8 years.

### **About IIJ**

Internet Initiative Japan Inc. (NASDAQ: IIJI) ("IIJ"), is one of Japan's leading Internet-access and comprehensive Internet solution providers mainly targeting high-end corporate customers. Founded in 1992 as a pioneer of commercial Internet services in Japan, IIJ has built one of the largest Internet backbone networks in Japan as well as between Japan and the United States. IIJ and its group companies provide total solutions ranging from new generation network services over optical-fiber infrastructure optimized for data communications, construction of Asian-wide IP backbone network, high-quality Internet access, securities, hosting/housing, contents design, and to systems integration.

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