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**1. DATA VPN REVENUE TRIPLES IN TWO YEARS.** The market for data VPNs, private networks that use public Internet and managed IP networks to securely transmit data will nearly triple over the next two years, from $2.53 billion this year to $7.2 billion by 2003, according to a new study by Insight Research, a telecom market analysis firm in Parsippany, NJ. "The confluence in 2003 of two trends -- an increase in availability of dedicated broadband access and corporate reliance on network outsourcing -- will mark the beginning of an even stronger growth period for the data VPN market," says Robert Rosenberg, president of Insight Research. "As the installed base of dedicated always on cable modem and DSL connections to the Internet increases, remote corporate users will begin enjoying performance on par with the corporate home office," says Rosenberg. News Contact: Tara D. Lazar <tara@insight-corp.com> Phone: 973-605-1400
**10. NEW RESIDENTIAL FERTILIZER TECHNOLOGY.** The first residential application of fertigation technology means homeowners can have healthier, greener lawns and gardens with less labor and for a lower cost than multiple granular applications, says Ned Lips III, CEO of FertiGator, Inc., St. Louis. Fertigation, the injection of a liquid fertilizer into an irrigation mainline, was developed in the 1960s for use in agriculture, and quickly adapted for use on the world’s finer golf courses. "For the first time, homeowners have access to this technology, allowing them to meter their fertilizer application by zones and deliver turf food to the turf zones and flower food to the gardens,” says Lips. News Contact: Bev Garnant <garnant@veriomail.com>

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**11. MARRIAGE OF CLAY AND PLASTICS RESULTS IN BETTER PRODUCT.** Small amounts of well-dispersed natural clay can lead to environmentally friendly and inexpensive plastic composites with improved specialized properties, a Penn State researcher has discovered. "Adding very small amounts of natural clays to plastics changes some of their physical properties," says Dr. Evangelos Manias, assistant professor of materials science and engineering. "The addition of clay can make plastics less permeable to liquids and gases, more flame retardant and tougher," adds Manias. Manias: <manias@psu.edu> Phone: 814-863-2980. News Contact: A'ndrea Messer <aem1@psu.edu> Phone: 814-865-9481

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