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ATHENA PARTNERS AND COSTCO BUSINESS CENTERS PARTNER FOR A CURE

KIRKLAND, Wash. – Athena Partners™ and Costco Business Centers™ are pleased to announce the introduction of Athena™ bottled water in Costco Business Center locations in Fife and Lynnwood, Wash. Athena Partners devotes 100 percent of the net profits of Athena bottled water to Northwest research on women's cancers.

"We are pleased that Costco Business Centers will offer Athena water to their customers," said Trish May, founder and CEO of Athena Partners. "This will help to expand Athena's availability to a wider number of small- and medium-sized businesses and to individuals with business-related needs. Their support will help us achieve our mission of raising funds for northwest cancer research to find a cure for woman's cancers."

"Costco believes in taking a leading role in the communities in which we do business and we are pleased that, through the sale of Athena water, we can help advance research and education for woman's cancers," said Costco buyer, Chad McMurray. "By purchasing Athena water, our customers can make a difference everyday in the lives of people who are touched by cancer."

Proceeds from the sale of Athena water in 2003 will benefit leading research institutions including The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, University of Washington Medicine and the Marsha Rivkin Center for Ovarian Cancer Research.

Athena bottled water will be available at Costco Business Centers in 500 ml (16.9 fl oz) 24-bottle cases. Costco Business Centers are open to all Costco members. Additionally, business members can either shop in the warehouse or place an order by phone or via Web site for next day delivery.

Costco Wholesale Corporation operates an international chain of membership warehouses that carry quality, brand name merchandise at substantially lower prices than are typically found at conventional wholesale or retail sources. The warehouses are designed to help small-to-medium-sized businesses reduce costs in purchasing for resale and for everyday business use. Individuals who are members of selected employee groups are also able to purchase for their personal needs. Costco operates Costco Business Centers, which offer an expanded selection of business products, available for the walk in member or next day delivery. For more information on Costco Business Center please visit www.costco.com.

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Athena Partners, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) venture philanthropy corporation, is dedicated to advancing research and education to eliminate breast and reproductive cancers. A full 100 percent of the net profits from sales of Athena bottled water are devoted to innovative research to find a cure. Athena bottled water is available through Western Washington grocery stores, coffee shops, cafés, caterers and other specialty outlets. Athena Partners Web site, www.athenapartners.org, provides a comprehensive Internet search directory to leading national and Seattle-area cancer information and resources about women's cancers.

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