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**HANDS-FREE COMMUNICATIONS FOR MOBILE PROFESSIONALS ENABLED  
BY NEW TECHNOLOGY FROM AVST**

**Driver Distraction Among Benefits Addressed by Advanced  
Speech-Enabled Solution**

**Foothill Ranch, Calif., December 8, 2003** – As California legislators are considering a ban on cellular phone use while driving, Applied Voice & Speech Technologies Inc. (AVST), a provider of unified communications solutions for the enterprise market, today introduced the next-generation of its speech application, Seneca™, to address multiple mobility issues including driver distraction. Seneca, a voice activated, unified office solution is designed to integrate with and enhance the capabilities of phone systems (PBX), voicemail, fax and email applications through state-of-the-art speech recognition technology.

Addressing the growing requirement for hands-free mobile communications, Seneca empowers mobile phone users with a hands-free communication interface to reply to voice messages, place outgoing calls, send and receive email and redirect incoming calls through simple voice commands. As today's workforce becomes increasingly more mobile, Seneca's speech-enabled auto-attendant efficiently and effectively answers and manages all incoming calls into an enterprise, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week allowing individuals to be more accessible and productive while operating remotely, commuting or traveling.

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According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 25 percent of vehicle accidents are due to driver distraction. As auto manufacturers continue to add in-vehicle entertainment devices, from DVD players to dashboard Internet access, driver distraction is rapidly increasing and cellular phone use is contributing.

“More and more companies have employees that travel regularly or work from remote locations,” said Hardy Myers, AVST President and CEO. “These individuals require the ability to keep up with their voicemail, email and fax messages at all times. In addition, remote or traveling employees rely on their cellular phones to communicate back to the office. Seneca provides these mobile employees with hands-free communications, a reliable speech interface and increases their productivity by putting the power of their voice to work for them while they’re away from the office.”

According to Myers, the launch of Seneca is the company's next step toward its goal of delivering superior communications solutions that meet the current and emerging requirements of enterprise business customers for real-time mobile communications.

Seneca is a modular software solution that integrates directly with an enterprise's existing voicemail system thereby extending the life span of the original investment. Seneca key features include:

- Multiple modules including Auto-Attendant, Voicemail, Dialing, Email and Fax modules;
- Total Hands-Free Mode with full speech-enabled voicemail and email navigation and outbound dialing;
- Expanded capacity – supporting up to 48 ports with 5,000 mobility users and 10,000 auto attendant users;
- State-of-the-art speech recognition engine from Nuance Communications (Version 8.0);
- State-of-the-art text-to-speech engine from Nuance Communications (Vocalizer 3.0).

“We are pleased AVST has leveraged our speech recognition technology to enable the mobile workforce,” said Lynda Smith, Vice President & Chief Marketing Officer at Nuance. “From an industry perspective, by integrating Nuance’s advanced speech technology with their switch agnostic speech-enabled unified office solution, AVST is able to provide customers with a much broader deployment potential for the mobile marketplace.”

Seneca is immediately available through AVST’s established reseller channels.

### **About AVST**

Applied Voice & Speech Technologies, Inc. (AVST) is a leading developer of unified communications solutions for businesses of all sizes. Through its world-class messaging platform, CallXpress®, and its innovative speech applications platform, Seneca™, AVST offers the industry’s most powerful suite of unified communications solutions. AVST’s solutions enable direct access to an enterprise’s communications infrastructure including voicemail, email and fax messaging from any voice or data device via a touch-tone, GUI or speech interface. Established in September 2003, AVST was formed from the combined businesses of Sound Advantage (established in 1997) and the CallXpress division (established in 1982) of Captaris, Inc.

AVST, headquartered in Foothill Ranch, CA, maintains facilities in Bellevue, WA and has remote sales offices across the United States. AVST’s communications solutions are distributed internationally through a worldwide network of resellers and OEM partners. For more information call Denny Michael, VP of Marketing at 949-699-2300 or access the company's website at [www.avstgroup.com](http://www.avstgroup.com).

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