



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **2005 GRAND PRIX OF DENVER STARTS OUT “ON TRACK”** *Track Construction Begins 30-Day Countdown To Race Weekend*

**DENVER—July 13, 2005—**The groundbreaking ceremony for the 2005 CENTRIX Financial Grand Prix of Denver presented by PacifiCare was held today to mark the beginning of construction of the 1.65-mile temporary race circuit around the Pepsi Center. CENTRIX Financial Chairman and CEO, Robert E. Sutton was assisted by the Grand Prix of Denver staff members in placing the cornerstone racetrack barrier, which will eventually outline the street course.

“Today is significant for CENTRIX and the Grand Prix of Denver,” said Sutton. “When we became involved with the Grand Prix in 2003, we were committed to making this a Denver event, one that would set the standard for events in this city as well as give us the vehicle to give back to the community. As we prepare for our 2005 event, we are on track to eclipse our previous successes with unprecedented partner commitments and involvement from the people of Denver.”

The track barrier placed today signifies the 30-day countdown to race weekend, which will be held August 12 through 14. “Building a racetrack is not a small task – the track operations staff has their work cut out for them. The crew will place more than 2,000 concrete barriers, weighing 10,000 pounds each, which translates to 20 million pounds of concrete,” said Martyn Thake, track operations director for the Grand Prix of Denver. “Then we will install approximately 24,000 feet of debris fence around the racetrack and approximately 300 tire barriers made up of 10,000 tires to line the inside of the course.”

Track construction will not affect traffic until Wednesday, August 10 when the westbound (outbound) lanes of Auraria Parkway, from Speer Boulevard to 7<sup>th</sup> Street, will be closed at 7:00 p.m., and will remain closed through Monday, August 15, at 3:00 p.m. The eastbound (inbound) lanes of Auraria Parkway from 7<sup>th</sup> Street to Speer Boulevard will be closed on Thursday August 11, at 10:00 a.m, and will reopen Monday, August 15, by 6:00 a.m. For easy access to the

downtown area from I-25, between August 10 and August 15, it is suggested that commuters exit at Speer Boulevard.

Media Note: Photo available upon request

***About the CENTRIX Financial Grand Prix of Denver***

The CENTRIX Financial Grand Prix of Denver presented by PacifiCare is three days of international auto racing surrounded by the city's most unique summer street festival. This annual event transforms the heart of the city into the largest gathering of car enthusiasts, sports fans and music lovers. Alongside Montreal, Mexico City and Australia's Gold Coast, Denver is one of only 14 host cities in the Champ Car World Series.

CENTRIX Financial has served as the title sponsor since 2003 and acquired the event in 2004 with the vision of making it one of Denver's premier summer events, a foundation for the city's economic growth, and an opportunity for some of Denver's most caring companies to give back to the community. For more information on the CENTRIX Financial Grand Prix of Denver, including ticket sales, call 877-336-4701 or visit [www.gpdenver.com](http://www.gpdenver.com). More information on CENTRIX Financial is available at [www.centrixfinancial.com](http://www.centrixfinancial.com).

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