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Media Relations Contact:

Cynthia Guiang
CG Communications
858-793-2471
cynthia@cgcommunications.com

CONNECT and Chairmen's RoundTable Announce Alliance

- New partnership expands resources for San Diego entrepreneurs -

San Diego, CA – July 17, 2006 – CONNECT, a globally recognized organization fostering entrepreneurship in the San Diego region, announced a formal alliance with the Chairmen's RoundTable (CRT), a San Diego-based, non-profit volunteer organization that provides gratis business advice and mentorship to local, private businesses. CONNECT's Springboard program, which offers mentoring services to generally early stage companies, will be a strategic partner with CRT.

Under this agreement, Springboard and CRT will actively cross-promote each other's activities to ensure continued new applicant flow to both programs, ultimately ensuring the vitality of the high tech, life science, and general business communities here in San Diego. The partnership will also offer Springboard and CRT clients, members, mentors and sponsors increased opportunities for exposure to the expansive resources of both organizations.

Michael Coleman, CONNECT's Springboard director, is thrilled to have solidified this new alliance. Coleman said, "We couldn't be more pleased than to partner with the Chairmen's RoundTable. Our organizations have mutually beneficial missions, and this alliance will help not only our two organizations, but the San Diego business community as well."

Tom Dorosewicz, Chairman of the Chairmen's RoundTable, said, "We view this new partnership with CONNECT Springboard as very complementary for both organizations as we serve different, yet similar needs in the San Diego business community. At CRT, we are focused on providing no cost mentoring services from highly experienced CEOs to established companies that have reached a strategic crossroads in their business. However, we often come into contact with early stage companies that are ideal candidates for the CONNECT Springboard program. Through this partnership, we can offer an excellent alternative to those businesses that CRT isn't equipped to mentor. Conversely, for companies who have moved beyond the range of CONNECT Springboard's focus, CRT may be best positioned to provide the perspective they are seeking."

The alliance will be renewed on an annual basis. Other CONNECT affiliates include the Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology (CCAT), Global CONNECT, the MIT Enterprise Forum, and the San Diego Tech Coast Angels.

About Springboard

Springboard provides free assistance for life sciences and high-tech companies in all stages of development, including concept, start-up, challenge and opportunity. Entrepreneurs accepted into the program spend six to twelve weeks in coaching sessions with one of CONNECT's Entrepreneurs in Residence. Upon completion of this process, entrepreneurs are invited to make a presentation of their business model to a select group of experts, tailored to the individual needs of each company. The goals of the panel presentation are to provide the entrepreneur with candid recommendations for the refinement of their business plan and to help identify next steps to achieve the company's goals. Since its inception in 1983, Springboard has assisted over 250

technology companies in starting and funding their operations. Over \$620M has been raised by these companies and more than half are still doing business in San Diego. For more information, visit <http://www.connect.org/programs/springboard/>.

About Chairmen's RoundTable

The Chairmen's RoundTable is a non-profit volunteer organization comprised of 40+ current and former Chief Executive Officers with extensive board of director experience and diverse industry backgrounds. They provide businesses in San Diego County priceless business advice and mentorship free of charge, as a way of giving back to the community. CRT's well-defined mentoring program is ideal for companies at a strategic crossroads that are looking to gain an outside perspective on key business issues. To date, more than 170 local companies have benefited from CRT's mentorship. For more information and to read about past client successes, please visit www.chairmensroundtable.com.

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