



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Kristen Sargent
CONNECT
(858) 964-1319
ksargent@connect.org

CONNECT ANNOUNCES 2006 MOST INNOVATIVE NEW PRODUCT (MIP) AWARDS FINALISTS

SAN DIEGO (September 27, 2006) – Today CONNECT announced the finalists for the 19th Annual Most Innovative New Product (MIP) Awards, once again showcasing the region as a leader in innovation and technology.

The 25 finalists were selected from more than 100 entries, the largest group in MIP's history. Innovations highlighted among this year's nominees range from technology in unmanned aircraft systems and water contaminant testing, to advances in the treatment of schizophrenia, diabetes and lung cancer.

"The MIP Awards demonstrate the significant advances in science and technology the companies in our region are making," said Duane Roth, chief executive officer of CONNECT. "It's important that we recognize these achievements that contribute to the development and commercialization of products that have such a positive impact, not just in this country, but on a global scale."

The winners will be announced at the MIP Awards Luncheon, to be held Friday, December 15th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines. Finalists will also have the opportunity to display their products prior to and immediately following the awards luncheon.

Since 1988, the CONNECT MIP Awards program has served as a benchmark for predicting the region's most successful emerging technologies. From early stage biotechnology companies to the first products generated by the region's telecommunications boom, MIP has been an indicator of the industries and technologies that have stimulated the San Diego economy.

CONNECT is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating and sustaining the growth of innovative technology and life science businesses in San Diego. Since 1985, CONNECT has assisted in the formation and development of over 1,000 companies and is widely regarded as the nation's most successful regional

program linking inventors and entrepreneurs with the resources they need for success.

If you would like to attend MIP Awards Luncheon and hear the winners announced, please register online at <http://connect.kintera.org/2006mipawards>. For more information contact Kristen Sargent at ksargent@connect.org or (858) 964-1319.

THE 2006 MIP AWARD FINALISTS

Biotechnology R&D

ACADIA Pharmaceuticals Inc., for ACP-104
Metabasis Therapeutics, Inc., for Pradefovir
NovaCardia for KW-3902
NovaRx Corp., for Lucanix

Communications Technology & Hardware

Airgain, Inc., for Airgain MaxBeam75 Smart Antenna
Chumby Industries, Inc., for the chumby
Kyocera Wireless for Kyocera KR1 Mobile Router

General Technology

Assure Controls for QwikLite 200 Testing System
Diversa Corporation for Valley Ultra-Thin enzyme
M Ship Co., LLC, for M80 Stiletto

Life Sciences – Diagnostics & Research Tools

Biomatrix, Inc., for SampleMatrix, SampleGard, SampleWare
Daylight Solutions for Tiny Tunable
Invitrogen Corporation for Qubit Quantitation Platform

Life Sciences – Medical Devices

Dexcom, Inc., for DexCom STS Continuous Glucose Monitoring System
NuVasive, Inc., for Gradient Plus Anterior Cervical Plating System
SeQual Technologies Inc., for Eclipse Oxygen System

Life Sciences – Therapeutics

Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc., for Hylenex
Pfizer, Inc., for SUTENT
Santarus, Inc., for ZEGERID Capsules

Security Technology

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc., for Warrior UAS
Seacoast Science, Inc., for SC-200
Verimatrix, Inc., for VideoMark

Software & IT
InControl Technology Inc., for MasterControl v2.05
Softmax for 1Voice Noise Cancellation
Streamload, Inc., for Streambeam

###