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CONNECT Seeks Clean Technology Innovators

*Applications Being Accepted from Entrepreneurs
to Present to Investors at Private Showcase on May 7*

SAN DIEGO - CONNECT, one of the nation's most successful regional economic development programs for high technology and life science innovators, inventors and entrepreneurs, is accepting applications from Southern California companies to participate in its Clean Technology (CleanTECH) Venture Roundtable scheduled for May 7.

CleanTECH San Diego is a non-profit organization formed by the city of San Diego to foster and build an energy and environmental technology cluster in the greater San Diego region. The CleanTECH initiative is an effort to create efficient energy with minimal waste. Clean technology involves any technology that provides alternatives to traditional but wasteful practices involving transportation, water management, renewable energy and energy production. Present solutions have included wind power, solar power, hydropower, biomass, information technology, lighting and electric motors, among others.

“With the right support and funding, companies involved in creating clean technologies have the potential to develop into the region’s next big business cluster,” said CONNECT CEO Duane Roth.

Now in its second year, the CleanTECH series is part of CONNECT’s Venture Roundtable program. The Roundtable program was conceived to fill a void by connecting venture capitalists with all stages of technology - from the early stage, disruptive technologies emerging in their area of interest to the more advanced or venture-ready companies.

“CONNECT’s Venture Roundtable aims to engage the venture community early in the technology business development process and introduce them to new concepts in clean technology,” said CleanTECH San Diego CEO Lisa Bicker. “Our goal is to help local

companies with great ideas get the financial boost they need to get their businesses off the ground and to accelerate the effort to combat global warming.”

In order to qualify to present business plans to investors, applicants must pass a rigorous screening process conducted by a committee of technology experts, investors and professionals. Those accepted will be invited to a preliminary presentation. The finalists will then present to an exclusive audience of 30-40 investors at the Clean Technology Venture Roundtable. The finalist companies will receive presentation coaching from CONNECT’s Entrepreneurs in Residence (EIR) prior to the Venture Roundtable.

CONNECT is accepting applications to the Roundtable through April 13, 2008. To be eligible to present, applicants must be either a privately held early-stage company that is pursuing research or product development in the clean technology area, or a research organization or academic institution pursuing research activities in the clean technology area. All applicants must be based in Southern California and interested in commercializing their technologies. More information is available on the CONNECT web site at www.connect.org.

About Venture Roundtable:

The CONNECT Venture Roundtable aims to introduce concepts in technology to the venture capital community. Today, San Diego businesses and investors thrive in a collaborative environment where the pathway to venture funding is more easily navigated by venture-ready companies. The CONNECT Venture Roundtable program was conceived to fill a void by connecting venture capitalists with all stages of technology - from the early stage, disruptive technologies emerging in their area of interest to the more advanced or venture-ready companies. By engaging the venture community early in the technology business development process, CONNECT hopes to not only introduce potential investments, but to also assist in building investment pipelines through the introduction of today’s technologies poised to become the businesses of tomorrow.

About CONNECT:

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 1,200 companies and is widely regarded as the nation's most successful regional program linking inventors and entrepreneurs with the resources they need for success. Its programs include: Springboard, Venture Roundtable, Frontiers in Science and Technology, FrameWorks, and Connect with CONNECT; affiliate programs with The Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology (CCAT), Tech Coast Angels (TCA), and MIT Enterprise Forum (MITEF); and its awards and recognition programs, Hall of Fame, and The Most Innovative Products (MIP) Awards.

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