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Washington Technology Industry Association Extends Industry Achievement Awards Call for Applications

14th Annual Awards to Feature New Format, Online Voting to Determine Winners

SEATTLE – October 6, 2008 – The Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA) (<http://www.washingtontechnology.org>), North America's largest statewide association of technology companies, IT departments and individual technology professionals, announced today that it is accepting nominations for its 14th annual Industry Achievement Awards (IAA), a prestigious annual awards program that recognizes local companies, agencies and individuals who best demonstrate innovation and excellence in creating technology or serving the industry. Applications are open to WTIA members and non-members and are due by November 14, 2008. Category descriptions and entry forms are available at <http://www.washingtontechnology.org/IAA>.

New to the 2009 awards is an online voting system that will enable the local technology community as a whole to determine the winner in each category.

"The WTIA continually strives to promote a strong sense of community among local technology companies, so with this year's awards we're asking for the community to become directly involved in deciding who among them should be recognized and honored," said Ken Myer, president and CEO of WTIA. "The new online voting system adds an extra element of excitement to what is already a terrific celebration of the state's technology innovators. We're looking forward to seeing who the nominees will be."

The WTIA will present awards in the following categories:

- Business Product of the Year
- Consumer Product/Service of the Year
- Service Provider of the Year
- Best Use of Technology in the Government, Non-Profit or Education Sector
- Technology Innovator of the Year
- Breakthrough Technology of the Year

Also back for 2009 is the Technology Leader of Tomorrow award, which will honor exceptional ninth-grade students attending the Technology Access Foundation (TAF) Academy. The TAF Academy opened in September of 2008 and encourages students' active participation in their education through a curriculum focused on science, technology, engineering and math.

Next year's IAA event, which also celebrates the WTIA's 25th anniversary, will take place March 25, 2009 at the Paramount Theater in Seattle. Registration will open in early December.

About the Washington Technology Industry Association

The Washington Technology Industry Association, founded in 1984, is the largest statewide association of technology companies, IT departments and individual technology professionals in North America. With more than 1,000 member companies representing more than 100,000 employees in Washington State, the association is a catalyst for sharing expertise, fostering collaboration, delivering key business services and advancing the value and global impact of technology companies doing business in Washington. The association's global partners are Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Microsoft, Regence BlueShield, Sun

Microsystems, Vertafore and Wells Fargo Insurance Services. The association's funding partners are AH&T Insurance, Blink Interactive, Inc., Comerica Bank, F5 Networks, GrapeCity and RealNetworks. For more information, go to www.washingtontechnology.org.

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