



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **New Board Members Reflect WSA's Growing Scope**

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*Leaders in Gaming, Medical Device Industries Join  
Technology Alliance's Executive Director on WSA's Board*

**SEATTLE – (October 29, 2007)** – The WSA, the state's oldest and largest technology trade organization, today announced the addition of three new members to its Board of Directors. From the gaming and medical device fields to the Technology Alliance (TA), the new members represent the WSA's support for all facets of Washington's technology industry.

"We are delighted to start working with our newest board members, who I am confident will enhance our representation of the gaming and medical device segments. In addition, the input of the TA on the strategic issues facing the industry will be invaluable," said Ken Myer, president and CEO of the WSA. "These executives' expertise and insight will undoubtedly help our team of board members, as well as the more than 1,000 member companies the WSA serves."

The three new board members are:

- **Susannah Malarkey, executive director, Technology Alliance**
  - Malarkey oversees all projects and programs for the Technology Alliance, a statewide organization of leaders from technology businesses and research institutions dedicated to Washington state's long-term economic success. Prior to assuming her current position, Malarkey was the director of public policy programs for the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce. She also served as the executive director of Business Volunteers for the Arts from 1987-95, and spent the previous five years working in community outreach and public relations for KCTS, Seattle's public television station.

"I'm looking forward to joining this impressive Board of Directors," Malarkey said. "The WSA does a remarkable job in serving the growing needs of Washington's technology community, and is a great partner for us as we focus on the long-term economic prosperity of the state's tech industry."

- **Paul Thelen, founder, chairman and chief strategist, Big Fish Games**
  - Thelen has more than 19 years of experience working in technology. Prior to founding Big Fish Games in 2002, Thelen worked at RealNetworks as director of consumer marketing, where he helped launch RealArcade, an online game distribution platform. He started his career as a systems engineer with the Seattle Marketing and Sales office of IBM.

"Through the WSA, I'm excited to support Washington's technology industry, raise the key issues that confront the community and be an active voice for the emerging needs of online digital media companies," Thelen said.

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- **Brian D. Webster, president, Physio-Control, Inc., a division of Medtronic**
  - Webster has more than 15 years of experience with both Medtronic and the original Physio-Control company. He has served in a variety of senior management roles within the business, including vice president roles in operations, sales and marketing. Prior to his start at Physio-Control, Webster worked for the Boeing Company.

“The medical device industry is growing here in the Pacific Northwest, and I’m very eager to work with the WSA to help represent the needs of this segment, both in Olympia and in terms of WSA member services,” Webster said.

In total, the WSA’s Board of Directors has 38 members. In conjunction with Myer, the board governs and drives the strategic direction of the organization.

### **About the WSA**

Founded in 1984, WSA is Washington’s technology association with over 1,000 member companies representing more than 100,000 software, Internet, telecommunications and technology company employees. The WSA is a catalyst for industry connections and provides members with key business services. As a voice for Washington’s technology industry, the WSA leads the advocacy of issues necessary to grow Washington state’s impact as a leader in the digital economy. WSA’s Global sponsors are Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Laird Norton Tyee, Microsoft, Regence BlueShield, The Hartford and Wells Fargo Insurance Services. WSA’s funding sponsors are AH&T Insurance, Comerica and Google. For more information, please see [www.wsa.org](http://www.wsa.org).

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