



Ernst & Young LLP
18111 Von Karman Avenue
Suite 1000
Irvine, CA 92612

For Immediate Release

Contact:
Roseann Wright
Ernst & Young LLP
949-437-0497
roseann.wright@ey.com

Media Contact:
Robyn Williams
HKA, Inc.
714-426-0444
robyn@hkamarcom.com

Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® Orange County/Desert Cities Awards announce 2009 independent judging panel

Judging panel made up of local business and community leaders

Irvine, Calif., February 19, 2009 – The Ernst & Young LLP Entrepreneur Of The Year® Awards today announced the 2009 independent judging panel for Orange County/Desert Cities. The panel, which selects the regional Entrepreneur Of The Year® award finalists and award recipients, is made up of leaders from local businesses and community leaders. This year's award recipients will be announced at the Hyatt Regency Irvine on June 11th.

The judges are:

Stephen Blythe, CEO, Blytheco, Inc., 2004 EOY Award Recipient

Patrick Fuscoe, CEO, Fuscoe Engineering, 2006 EOY Award Recipient

Rick Gibson, Managing Director, HOTVentures

Robert Grant, President, Allergan Medical

Robert Holmen, Managing Director, Miramar Ventures

Bala Iyer, Board Director – Life Technologies, IHS, QLogic, Conexant Systems, Skyworks Solutions

Steven Plochocki, CEO, Quality Systems, 2002 EOY Award Recipient

Sharon Stevenson, Managing Director, Okapi Ventures

Manu Shah, CEO & Chairman, MS International, 2007 EOY Award Recipient

Steven Layton, Principal, LBA Realty

“For the past 23 years, the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® program has recognized outstanding business leaders in the Orange County/Desert Cities area and throughout the nation,” said Kurt Binder, Partner and EOY Director. “These judges are the heart and soul of the program.”

Awards Criteria

Awards are given to entrepreneurs who have demonstrated excellence and extraordinary success in such areas as innovation, financial performance, and personal commitment to their businesses and communities. Self-nominations are encouraged, and there is no fee. Application forms must be received by March 16, 2009.

To be eligible for consideration, the nominee must be an owner/manager of a private or public company who is primarily responsible for the recent performance of the company and an active member of top management. Additionally, the nominee's company must be at least two years old.

Sponsors

Founded and produced by Ernst & Young LLP, the Entrepreneur Of The Year® Awards are nationally sponsored by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and SAP America.

In the Orange County/Desert Cities program, local sponsors include Marsh; Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth; Strategic Equity Group; Orange County Business Journal; HKA, Inc; Scherzer International; and RR Donnelley Financial.

Contact Information

For more information and nomination forms contact: Roseann Wright, Program Manager, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® Orange County/Desert Cities Awards, at 949-437-0497 or roseann.wright@ey.com. Information is also available at www.ey.com/us/eoy.

About Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur Of The Year®

Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur Of The Year® is the world's most prestigious business award for entrepreneurs. The award makes a difference through the unique way it encourages entrepreneurial activity among those with potential and recognizes the contribution of people who inspire others with their vision, leadership and achievement. As the first and only truly global award of its kind, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® celebrates those who are building and leading successful, growing and dynamic businesses, recognizing them through regional, national and global awards programs in more than 135 cities in 50 countries.

About Ernst & Young

Ernst & Young is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. Worldwide, our 135,000 people are united by our shared values and an unwavering commitment to quality. We make a difference by helping our people, our clients and our wider communities achieve their potential.

For more information, please visit www.ey.com.

Ernst & Young refers to the global organization of member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. This news release has been issued by Ernst & Young LLP, a U.S. client-serving member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited.