



National Venture Capital Association

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National Venture Capital Association Honors Industry Visionaries

Lifetime Achievements of Hambrecht, Robertson and Weisel and Outstanding Service of John Martinson All Recognized at NVCA Annual Meeting

April 27, 2006, San Jose, CA -- At its annual meeting here today, the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA) recognized four industry leaders for their significant contributions to the venture capital community. The NVCA members honored the recipients, whose vision and dedication to the industry have played an exceptional role in strengthening the venture capital asset class and the NVCA.

Lifetime Achievement Award

This year's Lifetime Achievement in Venture Capital Award was presented jointly to Bill Hambrecht, founder, chairman and co-CEO of WR Hambrecht + Co; Sandy Robertson, founder of Robertson, Stephens & Company; and Thomas Weisel, chairman and CEO of Thomas Weisel Partners. The award recognizes individuals who have shaped venture capital as an asset class through a willingness to embrace emerging companies and, in doing so, has made a significant contribution to the US economy. Through their collective vision, these three recipients have created and grown specialized investment banking practices that cater to venture-backed companies and have made it possible for thousands of promising enterprises to successfully enter the public markets.

In 1968, Bill Hambrecht co-founded Hambrecht & Quist, an investment banking firm specializing in emerging high-growth technology companies. He founded WR Hambrecht + Co in 1998, introducing OpenIPO® as a means to level the playing field for both investors and issuers. Mr. Hambrecht has served as a director for numerous private and public companies. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees for The American University of Beirut and is on the Advisory Investment Committee to the Board of Regents of the University of California. He also serves on the Advisory Council to The J. David Gladstone Institutes and is on the board of Decision Economics and Majestic Research. Mr. Hambrecht graduated from Princeton University.

Sandy Robertson was a pioneer in the creation of West Coast technology banking as an industry in the late 1960s, and has remained one of the industry's most renowned participants. He served as VP and Director at Smith Barney before founding a firm that later became Montgomery Securities. In 1978, he founded Robertson, Stephens & Co, one of the most significant underwriters of IPOs, mergers, and acquisitions. After selling the company in 1998, Mr. Robertson founded Francisco Partners, the world's largest technology-focused private equity fund. Sandy has had significant financing involvement in over 500 growth technology companies, including 3Com, America Online, Applied Materials, Ascend, Dell Computer, E*Trade, Siebel, and Sun. He serves on the boards of Netro Corporation, Pain Therapeutics and the Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving, as well as on the President's Board at the University of Michigan.

Thomas Weisel is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Thomas Weisel Partners, an investment bank specializing in the growth sectors of the economy including the technology, healthcare and consumer sectors. He is a former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Montgomery Securities, former Chairman of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Foundation and Founder and President of Montgomery Sports (now Tailwind Sports). Mr. Weisel is a Board member of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. He also sits on the Stanford Endowment Management Board. Mr. Weisel received an A.B with distinction and honors from Stanford University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Outstanding Service Award

The Outstanding Service Award was given to John Martinson, Managing Partner of Edison Venture Fund. This honor is presented to an NVCA member who has committed extraordinary time, resources, and dedication to advocacy efforts on behalf of the venture capital industry. During his tenure on the NVCA Board of Directors and as NVCA Chairman, Mr. Martinson played an instrumental role in expanding NVCA's membership and research programs and lobbied on many important issues at both the national and state levels. He also has been actively involved in guiding many venture, angel, entrepreneurial, technology and educational organizations in the Mid-Atlantic region.

With 28 years of venture capital experience, Mr. Martinson has guided 150 equity financings. He has served on the Board of Directors of 40 companies and has made multiple investments in application software serving the drug industry, customer relationship management, education, human resources, manufacturing and enterprise solutions. In 1986, Mr. Martinson established the Edison Venture Fund, which financed more companies in NJ, PA, MD, and VA than any other private equity firm. He holds a BS in Aeronautical Engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy, an MS in Astronautics from Purdue University and an MBA from Southern Illinois University.

“It is our pleasure to honor these professionals for their long-time commitment to innovation, entrepreneurship and economic growth,” said NVCA President Mark Heesen. “At a time when the global market is becoming increasingly competitive, we need to look at the accomplishments of today’s honorees as examples of American leadership. These individuals understand fully what it takes to succeed – vision, tenacity and energy. The venture capital industry will continue to build upon their legacy in an effort to help drive the US economy.”

About NVCA

The National Venture Capital Association (NVCA) represents approximately 480 venture capital and private equity firms. NVCA's mission is to foster a greater understanding of the importance of venture capital to the U.S. economy, and support entrepreneurial activity and innovation. According to a 2004 Global Insight study, venture-backed companies accounted for 10.1 million jobs and \$1.8 trillion in revenue in the U.S. in 2003. The NVCA represents the public policy interests of the venture capital community, strives to maintain high professional standards, provides reliable industry data, sponsors professional development, and facilitates interaction among its members. For more information about the NVCA, please visit www.nvca.org.