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**Amgen and Cisco Systems Inducted to  
Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year<sup>®</sup> Hall Of Fame  
For Venture-Backed Companies**

**Palm Springs, CA., November 18, 2005** — Ernst & Young LLP, in conjunction with the National Venture Capital Association, today announced its second group of inductees, Amgen and Cisco Systems, into the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Hall of Fame for Venture-Backed Companies.

The Hall of Fame was established in 2004 by Ernst & Young LLP, together with the National Venture Capital Association, to recognize outstanding industry leaders after being venture-backed during the development stage of their life cycles. “This Hall of Fame honor also recognizes the important role the venture capital industry plays in partnering with entrepreneurs to build innovative companies and foster economic growth,” said Joseph Muscatt, the Americas Director of Ernst & Young’s Venture Capital Advisory Group. Last year, the inaugural inductees to the Hall of Fame were FedEx, Genentech, and Intel.

The 2005 inductees were honored at the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year National annual awards weekend in Palm Springs, Calif. The independent judging panel considered the positive impact the inductees effected in their industries and their industry standing, as well as community involvement, product and service innovation, and management leadership.

“It is fitting that these venture-backed companies, Amgen and Cisco, are recognized as outstanding pioneering entities,” noted Mark Heesen, president of the National Venture Capital Association. “They have truly changed the landscape of our lives.”

## **Amgen**

A biotechnology pioneer since 1980, Amgen received venture-backing as it grew from a start-up into a global leader in discovering, developing and delivering innovative human therapeutics. Amgen was one of the first companies to realize the new science's promise by bringing novel medicines from lab, to manufacturing plant, to patient. Amgen therapeutics have changed the practice of medicine, helping millions of people in the fight against cancer, kidney disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and other serious illnesses.

Today, Amgen is a \$10.6 billion organization with approximately 15,500 staff members in 31 countries worldwide. With a deep and broad pipeline of potential new medicines, and a scientific approach that unites the best of cellular and molecular biology and medicinal chemistry, Amgen is committed to dramatically improving people's lives.

## **Cisco Systems**

Computer scientists from Stanford University founded Cisco Systems in 1984. In its early years, venture capital helped fuel Cisco on its way to success and the company went public in February 1990 with a market capitalization of \$224 million and \$69 million in revenues for that fiscal year. Since the company's inception, Cisco engineers have been leaders in the development of Internet Protocol (IP)-based networking technologies.

Today, the Cisco name is synonymous with the Internet. The company has grown into a \$22 billion global organization with nearly 40,000 employees worldwide. With a vision to change the way people work, live, play and learn, Cisco remains committed to creating networks that are smarter, faster, and more durable.

## **About The Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® Program**

The Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Program was created and is produced by professional services firm Ernst & Young LLP. As the first award of its kind, the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year award recognizes outstanding entrepreneurs who are building and leading dynamic and growing businesses. The program honors entrepreneurs through regional, national and global award programs in over 100 cities and 35 countries.

**About Ernst & Young**

Ernst & Young, a global leader in professional services, is committed to restoring the public's trust in professional services firms and in the quality of financial reporting. Its 106,000 people in 140 countries pursue the highest levels of integrity, quality, and professionalism in providing a range of sophisticated services centered on our core competencies of auditing, accounting, tax, and transactions. Further information about Ernst & Young and its approach to a variety of business issues can be found at [www.ey.com/perspectives](http://www.ey.com/perspectives). Ernst & Young refers to all the members of the global Ernst & Young organization.

**About the National Venture Capital Association**

The National Venture Capital Association (NVCA) represents more than 450 venture capital and private equity organizations. NVCA's mission is to foster the understanding of the importance of venture capital to the vitality of the U.S. and global economies, to stimulate the flow of equity capital to emerging growth companies by representing the public policy interests of the venture capital and private equity communities at all levels of government, to maintain high professional standards, facilitate networking opportunities and to provide research data and professional development for its members.

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