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VPTC Reveals 2003 Tech Awards Finalists
18 Area Companies and Individuals Selected
Six winners to be announced at May 8 Gala Dinner

Charlottesville, VA, March 21, 2003—The Virginia Piedmont Technology Council (VPTC), the most influential and effective tech-focused alliance in Central Virginia, has announced the finalist candidates for its 2003 Tech Awards. Winners in each of the six technology-focused categories will be announced at a gala dinner on May 8, 2003 in Charlottesville with Eli Lilly’s William E. Smith, III as the keynote speaker. The VPTC Tech Awards honor individuals and organizations that use technology to positively impact the region and local, national and international marketplaces. For more information or to reserve tickets to the event, visit www.vptc.org.

William E. Smith is Vice President, Global Corporate and Manufacturing Services, for Eli Lilly and Company. Lilly announced earlier this year their decision to locate their new manufacturing facility in Prince William County, Virginia. Mr. Smith's keynote talk will describe Eli Lilly and Company, the purpose of the new facility, and why they choose Virginia as the site for this major investment.

The award winners will be chosen by a blue-ribbon panel of nine judges (see page 2) who are recognized industry and education leaders, with the business and technical expertise to examine each nominee against the award criteria. The judges come from a cross section of Central Virginia, representing the various science, technology, and business disciplines from which nominees are usually drawn.

“These finalists are the innovative technology leaders in their respective fields. They are the companies and individuals who are leading the way in technology research & development, commercialization and deployment,” said Melanie Snyder, VPTC chairperson.

Rocket Award – presented to that technology-based firm which has moved with noteworthy speed from concept towards commercialization. **Finalists:**

- ❖ Internet Payment Solutions, Inc.
- ❖ Questerra, LLC
- ❖ Sportswar, LLC

Spotlight Award – given to that technology-based firm or individual which has brought significant positive attention to the region. Their actions spotlight the Virginia Piedmont as a world-class technology leader. **Finalists:**

- ❖ Crutchfield Corporation
- ❖ Lighthouse Instruments, LLC
- ❖ National Optronics



Breakthrough Award – Given to that technology-based enterprise or individual for achieving a remarkable breakthrough or quantum advance. This may also be the result of a seemingly unlikely re-direction or unforeseen application of a technology-enabled solution. **Finalists:**

- ❖ Afton Scientific Corporation
- ❖ Medical Predictive Science Corporation
- ❖ Virginia Technologies, Inc.

Community Award – given to the technology based organization that has demonstrated the greatest commitment to improving the quality of life in Central Virginia through community involvement.

Finalists:

- ❖ Category4 Design
- ❖ Computers4Kids
- ❖ Mark Simpson
- ❖ Neon Guild

Red Apple Award – given to that educator, in K-12 or higher education, who clearly and consistently is able to do the most with resources available in exciting and preparing students for the possibilities in technology. **Finalists:**

- ❖ Eileen Merritt, Stone-Robinson Elementary School
- ❖ Gwen Meeks, Agnor-Hurt Elementary School
- ❖ Sandy Estep, Virginia L. Murray Elementary School

Navigator Award – presented to that individual or entity which has demonstrated significant leadership in the local or regional high-tech community. This award winner has been actively involved or made other significant contributions toward the improvement or advancement of our region’s high-tech development. **Finalists:**

- ❖ The Honorable George Newstrom, Secretary of Technology
- ❖ Spinner Technologies, Inc.

2003 VPTC Judging Panel: **Dr. David L. Brautigan**, UVa. Professor & Director, Center for Cell Signaling; **Kathryne F. Carr**, Managing Director, Tall Oaks Capital Partners, LLC; **Robert De Mauri**, Executive Director, Thomas Jefferson Partnership for Economic Development; **John R. Frizzell, III**, Vice President, Private Client Services, SunTrust Bank; **Lawrence McConnell**, Publisher, The Daily Progress; **Robert M. O’Neill**, Director, Thomas Jefferson Center for Protection of Free Expression; **Robert L. Tobey**, Principal, Garris, Tobey, & Co., P.C.; **Dr. Kathryn C. Thornton**, UVa. Professor with appointments in the Division of Technology, Culture and Communication and in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; **Dr. Alfred Weaver**, Director, Internet Technology Innovation Center & UVa. Professor of Computer Science.

About the VPTC: With more than 450 active members representing 130 companies, the Virginia Piedmont Technology Council (VPTC) is the most influential and effective tech-focused alliance in Central Virginia. The VPTC is a nonprofit organization established in 1997 to assist the technology-related business community by helping them connect, gain visibility, and succeed while contributing to closing the digital divide. Headquartered in Charlottesville, the Council offers monthly educational programs, networking events, and resources to members in the Central Virginia region. In 2002, the VPTC hosted more than 30 events, which attracted more than 1,600 people. Visit www.vptc.org or call 434-817-6300.

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