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**Massachusetts Network Communications Council Celebrates Industry Achievement
During Annual Awards Ceremony**

Announces Winners of Best Company, Best CEO, and Best Product Awards, Honors Long-Term Contributions to the Industry and Recognizes Exceptional Performance by Area Companies

March 17, 2006 - Waltham, MA – At last night's Annual Awards Ceremony, the Massachusetts Network Communications Council (MassNetComms) recognized several network communications companies for exceptional achievement over the past year, based on a vote of its membership. This year's Company of the Year Award went to **Airvana**, and was accepted by Randy Battat, President and CEO. The award for CEO of the Year was presented to the leaders of two New England companies: **Ash Dahod**, President, CEO, and Co-founder, Starent Networks, and **Andy Paff**, President and CEO, Cedar Point Communications. The winner of the best product category was **Comcast Digital Voice**, and was accepted by Kevin Casey, President of New England, Comcast.

"The growth of our leading companies, and their exceptional performance as they expand worldwide, demonstrate robust demand for network communications products and services," said Nina Saberi, chairman, Massachusetts Network Communications Council, and founder and partner, Castile Ventures. "Their successes prove once again that Massachusetts is an excellent place to start a company and bring innovative technologies to market."

During the ceremony, which was attended by more than 300 industry leaders, the Council honored two individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the industry over an extended period. **Alex d'Arbeloff**, Honorary Chairman of the MIT Corporation, and Founder, Teradyne, and **Ambassador Richard J. Egan**, Founder and Chairman Emeritus, EMC Corporation were inducted into the Network Communications Hall of Fame.

Additional awards that were presented include: **Ray Ozzie**, CTO, Microsoft, was named Key Industry Player; **Philippe Bibi**, CTO, Putnam Investments was recognized as CIO of the Year; **Deborah Boisvert**, Director, BATEC Center for IT, was honored as Workforce Development Leader; and **Representative John Binienda**, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was recognized as Policy Maker of the Year.

"These individuals have been personally committed to building lasting companies in Massachusetts, creating opportunities for innovators to bring products to market," said Saberi. "Their talent and energy, as well as the success of their companies, serve as stellar examples to a new generation of entrepreneurs and technologists."

The Council also announced the winners of awards for exceptional performance based on quantitative metrics. The award for Best Performance in Public Markets went to **Nuance**. **EMC** and **Airvana** were jointly recognized for Fastest Growth in Massachusetts. **SavaJe Technologies** was recognized for achieving the Largest Private Financing.

"Each year, at the MassNetComms Annual Awards Ceremony, the technology drivers of the network communications industry, as well as Massachusetts' standing as a center of excellence, are apparent," said Carol Meier, executive director, Massachusetts Network Communications Council. "Our industry's successes have come from established companies and emerging

companies, leveraging a diverse range of technologies in broadband media, IPTV, wireless, storage, IP switching, network security, and more."

Companies and Individuals Recognized

Company of the Year - Airvana

Airvana, a leading provider of all-IP, third-generation (3G) CDMA2000 1xEV-DO infrastructure, was recognized as Company of the Year based on its outstanding financial performance and product innovation in 2005. This is the second year that Airvana has received this award, The company was also selected as Company of the Year based on 2004. Finalists in this category were **EqualLogic, m-Qube, and Starent Networks**.

CEO of the Year – Ash Dahod, Starent Networks

Ash Dahod was awarded the honor of CEO of the Year, reflecting his role in leading Starent Networks to its outstanding position as a provider of mobile networking technology.

CEO of the Year – Andy Paff, Cedar Point Communications

Also honored as CEO of the Year was Andy Paff, President and CEO, Cedar Point Communications, due to his leadership in building a company to address the needs of the cable system operators worldwide.

Jeffrey Glass, m-Qube, and Andrew Ory, Acme Packet, were also Finalists for the MassNetComms CEO of the Year, based on their exceptional leadership in 2005.

Product of the Year – Comcast Digital Voice

Comcast Digital Voice received top product honors at the event. Comcast Digital Voice is a residential telephone service that travels over the company's privately managed advanced broadband network using IP technology, and was introduced in Massachusetts and other locations around the country during 2005. Finalists for Product of the Year were **Acme Packet Net Net 9000, and Verizon FIOS**.

The Network Communications Hall Of Fame

Alex d'Arbeloff, Honorary Chairman of the MIT Corporation, and Founder, Teradyne

The Network Communications Hall of Fame recognized Alex d'Arbeloff's contribution to the network communications industry, from his founding of Teradyne in 1960, leadership of the company to \$1.2 billion in revenue in 1996, and ongoing contributions to higher education at MIT.

The Network Communications Hall of Fame

Ambassador Richard J. Egan, Founder and Chairman Emeritus, EMC Corporation

Ambassador Egan was inducted into the Network Communications Hall of Fame in recognition of his leadership of EMC, from founding the company in 1979, and growing the company to its leadership position in Massachusetts, and in storage architecture worldwide.

Key Industry Player – Ray Ozzie, CTO, Microsoft

Ray Ozzie was recognized as Key Industry Player for his commitment to the network communications community and his sustained contribution to the industry's success in New England. As the developer of Lotus Notes, founder of Groove Networks, and the strategist who accomplished the sale of Groove to Microsoft, he has highlighted the expertise of the Massachusetts development community in the United States technology sector.

CIO of the Year – Philippe Bibi, CIO, Putnam Investments

Philippe Bibi was recognized for his initiatives in deploying innovative communications products and services, providing a strategic competitive advantage for Putnam Investments, as well as unique capabilities for investors and portfolio managers.

Workforce Development Leader - Deborah Boisvert, Director, BATEC Center for IT

Recognizing the importance of an educated workforce to the technology economy, the Massachusetts Network Communications Council gave Deborah Boisvert its leadership award for her organization's support of science and technology initiatives in education.

Most Effective Policy Maker - Representative John Binienda, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Representative Binienda was recognized for his leadership of the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Revenue as it considered revenue and regulatory issues impacting the network communications industry in 2005.

Best Performance in Public Markets - Nuance

Nuance of Boston (NUAN) was awarded the Best Performance in Public Markets Award, as the network communications company with the single greatest percentage increase in stock price during the year. NUAN's price appreciated 82 percent, from \$4.19 on January 3, 2005, to \$7.63 on December 30, 2005.

Fastest Growth in Massachusetts – EMC, Airvana

EMC was awarded the Fastest Growth in Massachusetts Award, by adding 400 positions in Massachusetts in 2005, finishing the year with 26,500 employees worldwide. Airvana was also recognized in this category based on 58% percentage growth of the Massachusetts employee base, adding engineering, sales and service personnel to respond to the momentum of its products in the wireless market.

Largest Private Financing – SavaJe Technologies

SavaJe Technologies of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, provider of a open-standards Java platform for mobile phones, was awarded the Largest Private Financing Award, based on raising \$40 million in private equity during 2005.

The Massachusetts Network Communications Council Annual Awards Ceremony enjoyed the support of the following sponsors: Charles River Ventures, Deutsche Bank, DLA Piper, Ernst & Young, Mass High Tech, and Silicon Valley Bank.

About the Massachusetts Network Communications Council

The Massachusetts Network Communications Council supports voice and data communication companies as they build successful and growing businesses in Massachusetts and New England. By providing advocacy to the state and federal government, education about key technical and business trends, and visibility with customers, partners, and investors, the Council fosters entrepreneurship and growth in the network communications sector in Massachusetts. Through its successful workforce development activities, including a unique scholarship program for high school students in Massachusetts, the Council ensures a vibrant and well-trained workforce in the region long-term.