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**Nth Power Sponsors the California Clean Tech Open**

***Inaugural competition issues nationwide call for contestants***

**SAN FRANCISCO, April 20, 2006** — Organizers of the California Clean Tech Open issued a nationwide call for contestants this week, and announced Nth Power as a sponsor of the inaugural competition. The competition will announce winners at a Sept. 29 event in San Francisco, and award \$500,000 in cash and service prizes to enable innovations that have a positive impact on the environment.

"Nth Power is one of the leading venture capital firms in clean tech with investments in companies like Evergreen Solar (ESLR) and Seattle BioFuels," said Tim Woodward, a managing director at Nth Power. "The California Clean Tech Open creates an opportunity to support new innovations that will move the entire category forward. We're honored to sponsor this inaugural competition."

Initiated by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Club of Northern California (MITCNC), and quickly joined by Stanford University and University of California at Berkeley, as well as charter partners Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Horn Murdock Cole, A&R Partners, and Plug & Play Real Estate, the California Clean Tech Open will help turn ideas into real businesses, creating new jobs as part of the expanding clean tech economy in California. The competition encourages professionals and students throughout the state to submit proposals and compete for prizes in five categories: California Investor Owned Utilities Energy Efficiency Prize, AMD Smart Power Prize,

Lexus Transportation Prize, Agora Foundation Water Management Prize, and the Renewable Energy Prize, which has yet to be named.

"Our objective is to act as an innovation catalyst in helping the 21<sup>st</sup> century become the clean tech age, with California the leader that makes it happen," said Laurent Pacalin and Mike Santullo, market-based environmental entrepreneurs and co-chairmen of the competition. "We are fortunate to have visionary leaders in the venture capital community as key contributors to innovation that will enable a more sustainable future."

California's economic sustainability is threatened by the increasing global competition for natural resources. Thus, making more efficient use of today's energy and water resources, and harnessing new resources that are more plentiful, less expensive to produce, and less harmful to society is absolutely critical. The California Clean Tech Open addresses these challenges by moving innovative technical solutions from concept to reality.

### **About The California Clean Tech Open**

The mission of the California Clean Tech Open is to encourage the development of clean technology companies that foster a healthy natural environment — companies that provide environmental benefits in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution reduction and resource protection, and conservation. The competition will also serve as a platform to educate the public, as well as the participants, about the environmental challenges we face and new technologies that can provide solutions to those challenges. The inaugural competition opens in April 2006, and winners will be announced in September at a finals event in the Bay Area. The best plan submitted from five categories—Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Smart Power, Transportation, and Water Management—will be awarded a bundle of prizes to create a sustainable business. Prize sponsors to date include: Energy Efficiency – Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, and San Diego Gas and Electric; Smart Power – AMD; Transportation – Lexus; Water Management – Agora Foundation, led by President Wynnette LaBrosse. The competition was initiated by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Club of Northern California (MITCNC) with charter partners Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Horn Murdock Cole, A&R Partners, and Plug & Play Real Estate.

A group of entrepreneurs and technologists from Silicon Valley—Derry and Charlene Kabcenell, Mark Farley, Frank H. Levinson, Geoff Ralston, and Michael and Amy Santullo—have generously provided the charter funding to launch the competition. The 2006 Host City is the City of San Francisco. Venture capital partners are Advanced Technology Ventures, Chevron Ventures, Draper Fisher Jurvetson, Foundation Capital, JPMorgan's Bay Area Equity Fund, Khosla Ventures, New Enterprise Associates, Nth Power and Venrock Associates. Innovation partners include Electric Power Research Institute, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Palo Alto Research Center, SRI International, and Technology Ventures Corporation. Competition partners include Clean Edge and Clean Tech Venture Network. University partners include: the Lester Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at the University of California, Berkeley; Berkeley Institute for the Environment; UC Davis Connect; the San Diego State University Center for Energy Studies; Business Association of Stanford Engineering Students; Ward W. and Priscilla B. Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University; Stanford Graduate School of Business Environmental Management Club; and Stanford Graduate School of Business Energy Club. Competition supporters include California Clean Energy Fund, Environmental Entrepreneurs, CalPERS, and Natural Resources Defense Council. The competition co-chairs are Laurent Pacalin and Michael Santullo.

Acterra: Action for a Sustainable Earth, a California 501(c)3 non-profit public benefit corporation (Tax ID 23-7064937) is the administrative and fiscal sponsor of the 2006 California Clean Tech Open legally responsible for the activities of the competition. Acterra is located at 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303-4303. Additional details about the program are available at [www.CaCleanTech.com](http://www.CaCleanTech.com).

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