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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Osama Arafat of Q9 Networks
Awarded CVCA's 2009 'Entrepreneur of the Year' Award**

TORONTO: The CVCA - Canada's Venture Capital & Private Equity Association, is pleased to announce that Osama Arafat, CEO of Q9 Networks, is the recipient of CVCA's 16th Annual 'Entrepreneur of the Year Award'.

Established in 1992, the purpose of CVCA's 'Entrepreneur of the Year Award' competition is to promote, highlight and celebrate the achievements of entrepreneurs who lead private equity or venture-backed Canadian companies. "The selection process focuses on individuals whose entrepreneurial spirit, drive and success personify the qualities that all venture capital or private equity investors seek to find in their portfolio companies," said Richard Kinlough, Chair of CVCA's Entrepreneur of the Year Committee and Managing Director, Group Head, CIT Corporate Finance, Canada. "The Committee looks to select exceptional entrepreneurs who create wealth, employment and also give back to the community," added Mr. Kinlough.

Osama Arafat was co-founder of InfoRamp, Toronto's first and largest ISP before it was sold to iSTAR in September 1995.

Osama then co-managed Isolation Systems, an award winning manufacturer of VPN solutions, backed by two of Canada's leading high-tech funds: JLA Ventures and VenGrowth.

In April 2000, JLA Ventures and VenGrowth backed Osama Arafat again by investing in Myna Communications, a small Internet service provider. Osama's goal was to build Canada's pre-eminent provider of outsourced data centre infrastructure services for organizations with mission critical IT operations. From a base of \$1MM in 2000, Osama re-focused Myna which became Q9 Networks and led the company on a high-growth trajectory. The company's sales grew to approximately \$66MM and was then sold to ABRY Partners in 2008 for \$361MM.

Today, Q9 Networks provides outsourced data centre infrastructure services to approximately 400 customers. Its services include the provision of physical space within highly secure data centres; various managed services including: bandwidth, dedicated servers, firewalls, load balancing, virtual private networking (VPN) and back-up/restore. Q9 employs approximately 150 employees.

Both JLA Ventures and VenGrowth experienced excellent returns with their investments in Isolation Systems and Q9 Networks. "Osama's ability to predict future technology needs of

organizations, which he has successfully done three times, makes him an outstanding candidate for this CVCA award,” said John Albright, Partner of JLA Ventures.

“Osama is a serial entrepreneur who also has a strong ability to hire and lead great management teams,” said Mike Cohen, Managing General Partner at VG Partners- part of VenGrowth Private Equity Partners Inc.. “He is also a generous philanthropist and served on the board of Hope Air, a national charity that assists Canadians with medical treatment when they are unable to afford the airfare. I cannot think of a candidate more deserving of this award.”

Osama Arafat was honoured at the Gala Evening at CVCA’s 2009 Annual Conference in Calgary last night, on Thursday May 28, 2009.

CVCA

The CVCA - Canada’s Venture Capital & Private Equity Association, was founded in 1974 and is the association that represents Canada’s venture capital and private equity industry. Its over 1800 members are firms and organizations which manage the majority of Canada’s pools of capital designated to be committed to venture capital and private equity investments. The CVCA fosters professional development, networking, communication, research and education within the venture capital and private equity sector and represents the industry in public policy matters.

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