Some statements for publicity purposes

1. The European IST Prize not only recognizes and rewards the best of European innovation and entrepreneurial flair in information society technologies – importantly it goes on to support the companies and organizations in their efforts to bring their ideas to market. The essence of the IST Prize is that it looks to the future as much as it rewards the past.

2. The Nominees, Winners and Grand Prize Winners are given the publicity and acclaim that attracts investors, partners and customers. However these are not left to chance. Where appropriate, they are brought into contact with venture capitalists and investors to aid commercialization of their groundbreaking products and services. Nomination for the Prize gives entry to a group of pioneers who create jobs and wealth.

3. The European IST Prize rewards the applications of information technology – not software or hardware. Previous winners have innovative and marketable applications in a wide variety of sectors: architecture, medical surgery, biometrics, supply chain management etc. The Prize rewards innovations that make a real difference to the lives of real people.

4. The European ICT sector is leading industry out of recession in 2004 with the highest sectoral growth rate of 3.1%. This is a reflection of the enabling characteristic of IST applications that are tools of the knowledge economy. The European IST Prize Winners are lighting the way to the Lisbon targets.

5. Since 1995 the Prize has rewarded innovation in the ICT sector with recognition, support and acclamation. It is now held as the most prestigious award in the European ICT sector – not only for the rigorous and competitive selection process, but also because nomination for the Prize recognizes best-in-class performance, a reputation founded in the success of past Winners.

6. To date the European IST Prize has been awarded to 191 Nominees, 220 Winners and 30 Grand Prize Winners from 23 countries. 3,145 companies have applied for the Prize over the past 10 years.

7. The European IST Prize Winners demonstrate that excellence can be found in many places. Of the Prize Winners 85% are Small and Medium Size enterprises (SMEs) – confirming their innovative flair and the importance of this sector to the success of Europe’s economic and social goals.

8. The European IST Prize identifies the best in entrepreneurship and innovation, providing beacons for others to follow. The prizewinners are an inspiration to entrepreneurial activity through the European research community.

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