



*Promoting excellence and international
role models in venture philanthropy.*

For immediate release

Contact: Monica Salvo, NESsT Communications Manager
msalvo@nesst.org

NESsT to present “Golden Egg Award” for excellence in venture philanthropy to Robert Manz of Enterprise Investors

NESsT, a pioneer in applying a ‘philanthropic investment’ approach to supporting social enterprises in emerging markets, is presenting its International Venture Philanthropy Award (the “NESsT Golden Egg Award”) to Robert Manz of Enterprise Investors, at the CEE Private Equity Forum in London, November 5.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 5, 2009 – [NESsT](http://www.nesst.org), an international, nonprofit venture philanthropy organization with offices in ten countries across Central Europe and Latin America, has announced that it will present its **International Venture Philanthropy Award**, known as the “**NESsT Golden Egg Award**,” on November 5th in London. The NESsT Golden Egg was established in 2001 to promote excellence in the field of venture philanthropy and to celebrate venture philanthropy role models in emerging markets. The Award will be presented during the **CEE Private Equity Forum**, an annual event organized by **C5** to bring together private equity professionals active in the Central & Eastern European (CEE) region.

The 2009 NESsT Golden Egg will be awarded to **Robert Manz**, a Managing Partner at **Enterprise Investors** in Warsaw. The Award recognizes Mr. Manz’s leadership as an active advisor and donor to the NESsT Venture Fund and a leader in promoting philanthropy in the private equity industry in CEE.

“Robert is a great philanthropic role model for his peers. He and Enterprise Investors have been incredibly generous to NESsT as a donor and he has dedicated his time and ideas as well as opened his network of contacts for the benefit of our initiatives. He has raised awareness of venture philanthropy among his colleagues and friends across Europe, helping to build confidence in our work among the private equity industry,” said Lee Davis, NESsT’s Co-Founder & CEO.

Manz has supported NESsT as a member of its International Business Advisory Network since 2005. He was one of six private equity professionals in CEE that came together in early 2008 to launch NESsT’s **Private Equity Shares** (www.privateequityshares.org) campaign to raise support for NESsT’s portfolio of social enterprises in CEE. The campaign received a groundswell of support from over 25 CEE private equity firms and their advisors, including accounting, banking, consulting and law firms, and raised over €300,000, more than double the original goal of €125,000.

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“The NESsT portfolio of social enterprises creates important social and economic opportunities for marginalized communities in CEE and does so in a financially sustainable way,” said Manz. “The venture philanthropy approach NESsT applies, providing hands-on financial and mentoring support to its portfolio, is similar to the way private equity firms support their portfolio companies and translates into a higher success rate among the enterprises they sponsor and a greater impact at the local level. The NESsT team is comprised of highly dedicated and responsible individuals that deserve recognition and backing,” Manz added.

Manz will be the sixth venture philanthropist to receive the NESsT Award for Europe. Since 2004, the Award has been presented at the C5 Forum: in 2007 to **Zoltán Tóth** of 3i, in 2006 to **William Watson** of SGAM, in 2005 to **Brian Wardrop** of Arx Equity Partners, and in 2004 to **Daniel Lynch** of 3TS Capital Partners. The Award was first presented at the NESsT International Venture Philanthropy Forum in Budapest (October 2001) to **George Roberts**, founding partner of private investment firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & co. (KKR), in recognition of his efforts in founding REDF, a venture philanthropy fund in San Francisco. Prospective recipients of the NESsT Golden Egg Award are identified based on nominations from NESsT staff, Board members, and advisors. NESsT launched a similar venture philanthropy award for Latin America at the LAVCA Summit in New York in September 2009, recognizing **Tim Purcell** of Linzor Capital Partners in Chile.

About Robert Manz: Robert Manz is a Managing Partner of [Enterprise Investors](#) (EI) and a member of its Board of Directors. Mr. Manz was one of the first professionals to join the firm in 1990 and has spent nearly 20 years developing the private equity industry in the CEE region. He has lead numerous successful investments and exits at EI and currently sits on the board of EI’s portfolio companies PharmaSwiss (a regional specialty pharma company) and Nay (a leading Slovak electricals retailer). Mr. Manz was the founding president of the Polish Private Equity Association (PPEA) in 2002 and was re-appointed its President again this year. Since 2003 has been chairman of the CEE Task Force of the European Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (EVCA). Before joining EI he worked in investment banking at Dillon Read & Co. in New York. Mr. Manz graduated from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, summa cum laude, with a degree in Finance and Management of Entrepreneurship.

About NESsT: Founded in Budapest in 1997, NESsT works to solve critical social problems in emerging market countries by developing and supporting social enterprises. Since 1997, the NESsT Venture Fund has provided financial capital and mentoring to over 2,000 social enterprises, transforming thousands of lives and demonstrating entrepreneurial solutions to critical social problems in emerging market countries. The **NESsT Venture Fund** provides both financial and business management support to nonprofits to help them plan for, launch and better manage their social enterprises. NESsT’s portfolio includes social enterprises in five CEE countries (**Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia**) and five in South America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Peru). The nonprofit **Kek Madar** in Hungary, for example, operates a social enterprise employing adults with intellectual disabilities in a restaurant and catering business. The enterprise furthers Kek Madar’s mission while also generating income to finance its operations.

About C5: Convener of the CEE Private Equity Forum, C5 is a London-based group of companies spanning five continents dedicated to leading edge business information, high level conferences, executive forums and publications including: EuroForum (UK), EF International, EuroLegal, the American Conference Institute and The Canadian Institute. www.ceeprivateequityforum.com

Read more about NESsT at: www.nesst.org.

Read more about Private Equity Shares at www.privateequityshares.org

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Read more about the NESST Golden Egg Award at: http://www.nesst.org/furthering_award.asp

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