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NESsT to present “Golden Egg Award” for excellence in venture philanthropy to Brian Wardrop of DBG

NESsT, an international leader in applying a ‘philanthropic investment’ approach to support the development of social enterprises in emerging market countries, is presenting its third International Venture Philanthropy Award (the “NESsT Golden Egg Award”) to Brian Wardrop, a Partner with DBG Eastern Europe, at the 9th Annual CEE Private Equity Forum in London on October 13.

LONDON [OCTOBER 5, 2005] – [NESsT](http://www.nesst.org), an international, nonprofit venture philanthropy organization with offices in Budapest (Hungary), Santiago (Chile), and California (USA), has announced that it will present its International Venture Philanthropy Award, known as the NESsT Golden Egg Award, on October 13th in London. The NESsT Golden Egg was established in 2001 to promote excellence in the field of venture philanthropy and to celebrate international venture philanthropy role models. The Award will be presented during the **9th Annual CEE Private Equity Forum**, an annual event organized by **C5** to bring together private equity and venture capital professionals active in the Central & Eastern European (CEE) region.

The 2005 NESsT Golden Egg will be awarded to **Brian Wardrop**, a partner with DBG Eastern Europe, a CEE-focused private equity firm with offices in Budapest, Bucharest, Prague and Warsaw. The Award recognizes Mr. Wardrop’s leadership as one of the most active advisors, donors and volunteers to the NESsT Venture Fund in Central Europe. “Brian is a great philanthropic role model for his peers. He has been incredibly generous to NESsT as a donor as well as with his time and network of contacts. 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.

Mr. Wardrop has been an annual financial supporter of the NESsT Venture Fund since 2002, providing one of the first individual donations to the NESsT portfolio of social enterprises. He has also been an active member of the NESsT Business Advisory Network (BAN) and has help to recruit many of the 30+ active BAN members in CEE who donate their time and expertise to NESsT and its portfolio of social enterprises. In recognition of his ongoing commitment to the work of NESsT, Mr. Wardrop has recently been invited to join the NESsT Europe Supervisory Board to help develop NESsT’s work more widely in Central and South Eastern Europe.

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“NESsT’s progress in Central Europe has been exceptional,” says Wardrop. “The NESsT team is succeeding in its objective of instilling long-term, sustainable and entrepreneurial growth strategies within the worthy social enterprises in its portfolio. I’m fortunate to have the opportunity to support such an important initiative.”

Wardrop will be the third venture philanthropist to receive the NESsT Award. In 2004 the Award was also presented at the C5 Forum to **Daniel Lynch** of 3TS Capital Partners in Prague for his on-going support to the NESsT Venture Fund. The Award was first presented at the NESsT [International Venture Philanthropy Forum](#) in Budapest (October 2001) to Mr. **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.

The 2005 Golden Egg Award itself is a sculpture of bronze and wood commissioned by NESsT from **Gordon Senior**, a California-based artist from England. Born in Yorkshire, Senior moved to the United States in 2002 to take up the post of Chair of the Art Department at California State University, Stanislaus.

Prospective recipients of the NESsT Golden Egg Award are identified based on nominations from NESsT staff, Board members, and advisors around the world.

About Brian Wardrop: Mr. Wardrop, a Canadian national based in Budapest, is a partner with DBG Eastern Europe is a CEE-focused generalist private equity firm with over € 100 million currently under management. He is primarily focused on investment initiatives in South Eastern Europe, Hungary and the Baltic States. Mr. Wardrop was formerly a Principal and Head of the Prague Office with Baring Communications Equity (Emerging Europe), which is a specialist private equity firm sponsored by Baring Private Equity Partners. Brian, resident in CEE since 1997, has previous private equity transaction experience in Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Russia.

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. *Visit:* <http://www.C5-Online.com>

About NESsT: Founded in 1997, NESsT is an international, nonprofit philanthropic investment organization dedicated to finding lasting solutions to systemic poverty and social injustice through the development of social enterprises -- mission-driven businesses that increase the financial sustainability and social change impact of civil society organizations. *Visit:* www.nesst.org

About the artist **Gordon Senior:** www.gordonsenior.com

More information on the NESsT Golden Egg Award is available at:
http://www.nesst.org/furthering_award.asp

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