



**CEEPEF™ 2004**

For immediate release

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## **NESsT to present “Golden Egg Award” for excellence in venture philanthropy to Dan Lynch of 3TS Ventures**

**NESsT, an international leader in applying a ‘philanthropic investment’ approach to support the development of social enterprises in emerging market countries, is presenting its second International Venture Philanthropy Award (the “NESsT Golden Egg Award”) to Daniel Lynch, Senior Partner with 3TS Venture Partners, at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual CEE Private Equity Forum in London on November 12.**

LONDON [OCTOBER 27, 2004] – [NESsT](#), an international, nonprofit venture philanthropy organization with offices in Budapest (Hungary), Santiago (Chile), and San Francisco (USA), has announced that it will present its International Venture Philanthropy Award, known as the NESsT Golden Egg Award, on November 12<sup>th</sup> 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 by NESsT Co-Founder & CEO **Lee Davis** during the session “From Venture Capital to Venture Philanthropy” at the [8<sup>th</sup> 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 region.

The 2004 NESsT Golden Egg will be awarded to **Daniel Lynch**, a senior partner with 3TS Venture Partners, a CEE investment advisor with offices in Budapest, Prague and Warsaw. The Award recognizes Mr. Lynch’s leadership as one of the first and most active advisors, donors and volunteers to the NESsT Venture Fund in Central Europe. “In keeping with a venture capital mindset, Dan was one of the ‘first in’ – he had the foresight and vision to recognize that the philanthropic investment approach of NESsT was needed to further the social impact and financial sustainability of nonprofits in the CEE region,” says Davis. “Dan’s early support to NESsT has helped to build confidence among the investment industry in the region. He’s a role model for other professionals and firms on how to give back to the communities in which they invest.”

Mr. Lynch has been an annual financial supporter of the NESsT Venture Fund since 2001, providing the first individual donation to the NESsT portfolio of social enterprises in Czech Republic. He has also leveraged matching funds from 3TS and has been an active member of the NESsT Business Advisory Network (BAN), a group of 30+ active business leaders in CEE who donate their time and expertise to NESsT and its portfolio of social enterprises. Lynch’s network introductions also helped NESsT sign strategic partnerships with the Czech, Hungarian, and Slovak venture capital associations to encourage venture philanthropy among their members.

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“I was first attracted to NESsT because it addressed the real need to mobilize capital for CEE nonprofits,” says Lynch. “I’d been trying to pursue this same goal for several years and was amazed about how difficult it was. NESsT funding and business support steers portfolio members toward greater self-sufficiency so that funds can then be targeted elsewhere for good use.”

Mr. Lynch has taken a particular interest in [P-Centrum](#), a nonprofit in Olomouc, Czech Republic that joined the NESsT Venture Fund portfolio in 2000. P-Centrum has received multi-year financial and capacity-building support from NESsT to expand its wood-sculpting workshop providing aftercare programs and employment for at-risk individuals, many of whom are overcoming drug addiction. Thanks in part to assistance from NESsT and BAN members like Lynch, P-Centrum has succeeded in scaling up its workshop to achieve its mission-related goals and generate a sustainable flow of income to help reduced dependency on outside donor funding. NESsT has helped P-Centrum complete a business plan for the workshop and relocate the workshop to a larger space to employ more people. In addition to his financial contribution, Lynch has taken an active role in advising P-Centrum staff on a marketing strategy and on improving its product line of hand-carved wooden benches, slides and other wooden sculptures for children’s playgrounds, schools, and parks.

“Dan had a particular interest in supporting young people in Czech Republic,” says NESsT Enterprise Development Director **Joanna Messing**, who first introduced Lynch to NESsT’s work in 2000. “He first approached NESsT frustrated that he could not find an effective nonprofit organization to support. At NESsT we were able to offer a high-impact nonprofit that had already been vetted through our rigorous portfolio due diligence process. One hundred percent of Dan’s financial donation has gone directly to support P-Centrum’s social enterprise while NESsT ‘protects’ his philanthropic investment. Our venture philanthropy approach also allowed Dan to use his skills gained in private equity to have an impact on the social sector.”

Lynch will be the second venture philanthropist to receive the NESsT Award. 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. Prospective recipients of the NESsT Golden Egg Award are identified based on nominations from NESsT staff, Board members, and advisors around the world.

**About Daniel Lynch:** Mr. Lynch is a senior partner at [3TS Venture Partners](#) and is active in investment structuring, negotiations and syndicate transactions. Previously, he was the Investment Director in charge of Telecoms & Technology for the AIG New Europe Fund. A US citizen, Mr. Lynch has lived/worked in Central Europe for over 14 years and resides in the Czech Republic. He has a BA from Washington State Univ. and an MBA from the Univ. of California at Berkeley.

**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](http://www.nesst.org)

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