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**For Immediate Release**

**Northeast Ohio nanotech executives head to Washington DC to discuss policy issues**

*Nano-Network™ Participates in NanoBusiness Alliance Public Policy Tour*

**CLEVELAND** (February 15, 2006)—The Nano-Network, an Ohio-based organization dedicated to nanotechnology networking, advocacy, and economic development, today announced three of its members will participate in the NanoBusiness Alliance Public Policy Tour in Washington DC, February 15-17.

For the second consecutive year, participants from Northeast Ohio will include:

- **James Mazzella**, Chief Operating Officer and Founder of Five Star Technologies
- **Scott Rickert**, President and Co-Founder of Nanofilm
- **Chris Mather**, Vice President of NorTech and Executive Director of the Nano-Network

Mazzella and Rickert also serve on the Nano-Network's Board of Advisors.

“It's an honor to travel to Washington with my fellow nanotechnology colleagues and represent Northeast Ohio's Nano-Network on this Public Policy Tour. Our collective participation reinforces Ohio's dedication to nanotechnology as an economic driver,” said Chris Mather.

As part of the Public Policy Tour, leading nanotech executives from across the country will meet on Capitol Hill to educate public officials about nanotechnology business and public policy issues. The three-day event will involve meetings with key members of Congress, members of the Bush administration, and officials in major government agencies such as the Departments of Appropriations, Finance, Homeland Security, and Small Business.

During last year's Public Policy Tour, nanotech advocates secured full funding for the R&D program, launched a policy agenda to speed the commercialization of nano-enabled products and services from the laboratory to the marketplace and announced the formation of the Congressional nanotechnology caucus. Participants in this year's Tour will attend a meeting of that caucus.

This year the group's agenda will focus on three main objectives:

- **Maintain American Competitiveness** by increasing the available capital for nanotech businesses and reducing the cost of commercialization focused investments.
- **Guide lawmakers in crafting Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) regulations** that allow progress in the industry while satisfying EH&S concerns and engendering public trust.
- **Engage in partnerships with the NNI** and its constituent agencies to promote commercialization and develop knowledge.

In addition, Public Policy Tour participants will propose three items for lawmakers to consider adopting for legislation: 1) a nanotechnology research and development investment tax credit for investors that purchase stock in US nanotechnology companies 2) 10% of the National Nanotechnology Initiative budget (\$100 million annually) allocated for EH&S research in nanotechnology 3) a Reference Materials Library that will characterize a set of standard reference nanomaterials that will guide Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

“The NanoBusiness Alliance Public Policy Tour has been instrumental in promoting and advancing the national nanotechnology agenda in the United States, which is beneficial to our region and individual companies and institutions,” said James Mazzella.

“The United States is in a global nanotechnology race,” said Scott Rickert. He continued, “We must continue to make nanotechnology a national priority, in order to remain globally competitive with other nations. Therefore, we must invest heavily in nanotechnology R&D and commercialization activities.”

For more information about the NanoBusiness Alliance Public Policy Tour, please visit [www.nanobusiness.org](http://www.nanobusiness.org)

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### **About the Nano-Network**

The Nano-Network was formed by scientists, entrepreneurs and financiers to improve and expand nanotechnology research and commercialization activities and capacities in Northeast Ohio, and throughout the nation. The Nano-Network is one of the largest and best-known privately funded, “grass roots” nanotechnology organizations in the U.S. The Nano-Network is currently managed by NorTech, a regional economic development organization focused on innovation, technology and entrepreneurship in Northeast Ohio. NorTech's relationship with the Nano-Network provides the group with structure, contacts and resources to further promote nanotechnology in Ohio and the United States. [www.nano-network.org](http://www.nano-network.org)

### **About the NanoBusiness Alliance**

The NanoBusiness Alliance is the premier nanotechnology policy and commercialization advocate in the United States. Comprised of many diverse companies in various industries, as well as research institutions, non-governmental organizations and public-private partnerships, the Alliance provides a collective voice and a vehicle for efforts to advance the benefits of nanotechnology across our economy and society. Members are united in the belief that nanotechnology will drive economic growth, innovation and quality-of-life improvements in the 21st century. [www.nanobusiness.org](http://www.nanobusiness.org)

### **About Nanofilm**

Founded in 1985, Nanofilm develops proprietary films and partners with companies to formulate custom coatings or reformulate existing coatings to add new properties. Our technology portfolio solves problems requiring optically clear, thin (nanometers to microns) coatings, self-assembling nano-layers, and nanocomposites. Core competencies include nanoparticle selection; functionalization and coating formulation; technology in siloxanes, acrylics and urethanes on plastic, glass, textile and others substrates; expertise in surface chemistry and physics; application development. Functional properties include: hydrophobic, hydrophilic, anti-static, UV resistant or rejecting, anti-reflective, anti-microbial, infrared resistant or rejecting, abrasion resistant, chemical resistant, self cleaning, electrically conducting, functional selectively over broad temperature ranges. [www.nanofilm.cc](http://www.nanofilm.cc)

### **About Five Star Technologies**

Five Star Technologies, Inc. is an applied materials science company that employs its patented Particle Management Technologies (PMT) to development and manufacture enabling products for Electronics, Life Science, and Energy applications. Five Star's products include material that improve the performance of mobile phones and flat panel displays, enable the creation of new dosage forms for nutritional and pharmaceutical products, and improve the efficiency of catalytic converters. Based in Cleveland, Ohio, Five Star collaborates with industry leaders to provide solutions for high-value market challenges. Current institutional investors include Morgenthaler Ventures, CTTV (ChevronTexaco Technology Ventures), Cordova Ventures, and Early Stage Partners. [www.fivestartech.com](http://www.fivestartech.com)