



**FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS SELECTED AS
INVESTMENT BANKING FIRM OF THE YEAR IN 2004
AT ANNUAL M&A ADVISOR AWARDS**

San Francisco, CA – December 13, 2004 – Financial Technology Partners LLC and FTP Securities LLC (collectively “FT Partners”), is pleased to announce its selection as “Investment Banking Firm of the Year”, by M&A Advisor. FT Partners is the only investment bank focused exclusively on the financial technology sector and was launched in mid-2002 by Steve McLaughlin, its Founder and Managing Partner.

This highly coveted award was formally announced by M&A Advisor at its annual awards dinner on Monday, December 13, 2004 at The New York Athletic Club in New York City, which was attended by over 250 leaders in investment banking and private equity. Other award recipients included Citigroup for its role in the acquisition of Andover Controls from Balfour Beatty plc and Summit Partners for the recapitalization of Global Cash Access. Steve McLaughlin was also nominated for Investment Banker of the Year.

“I am extremely proud of our incredibly talented team of professionals and am thankful to the many clients that have put their faith, trust and precious shareholder value in the hands of FT Partners,” said Steve McLaughlin. “Our entire team is thoroughly dedicated to working on the most important transactions in the financial technology sector and providing world-class investment banking advice to all of our clients. We are pleased that the industry and our peers have recognized FT Partners’ achievements with this broad-based award in only our second full year in business. We look forward to continuing to serve our clients with the same level of tenacity in 2005 and beyond.”

FT Partners has consummated a significant number of important transactions within the financial technology sector in 2004, many of which were with leaders in their respective industries:

- The sale of Lynk Systems to the Royal Bank of Scotland for \$525 million
- The financial advisory role on VeriFone’s \$292 million recapitalization
- The acquisition of GO Software by VeriFone for \$15 million
- The sale of SoundView Technology Group to Charles Schwab for \$345 million
- The sale of Homestore’s WyldFyre Technologies division to eNeighborhoods
- The sale of Iverson Financial Systems to Capco
- The acquisition of Oberon Financial Technology by Envestnet Asset Management

FT Partners seeks to provide world-class strategic and financial advice to industry leading CEOs and management teams executing mission critical transactions. Mr. McLaughlin was formerly a senior investment banker in Goldman, Sachs & Co.’s Financial Technology Group and was the senior investment banker in the Financial Institutions Group in San Francisco before leaving the firm to launch FT Partners.

About FT Partners (www.ftpartners.com)

Financial Technology Partners (through FTP Securities LLC) is the only investment banking firm focused exclusively on providing strategic and financial advisory services to CEOs in the dynamic financial services and technology sector. FT Partners is led by Mr. McLaughlin, the firm's founder and Managing Partner, and is comprised of a team of experienced investment bankers formerly with the financial technology, M&A and investment banking groups of Goldman Sachs, Credit Suisse First Boston and J.P. Morgan. The firm offers CEO-level services including mergers and acquisitions advisory, private capital raising and IPO advisory. FT Partners was founded by its Managing Partner, Steven McLaughlin, in late 2001 and is based in San Francisco. Steven J. McLaughlin is a registered representative of FTP Securities, a NASD broker-dealer. Any securities related transactions contemplated or acted upon by hereunder are conducted solely by Mr. McLaughlin in this capacity. Additional information about FT Partners can be found at www.ftpartners.com.

#

For media inquiries, please contact:

Financial Technology Partners LLC
FTP Securities LLC
415-512-8704