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CANADIAN VENTURE EXCHANGE - CORPORATE
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Attention Business Editors:

Canadian Venture Exchange - Technology deals push CDNX financings to \$1 billion in first half of 2000

VANCOUVER, July 14 /CNW/ - Led by a strong showing in the technology sector, more than \$1 billion was raised for new ventures on the Canadian Venture Exchange (CDNX) in the first half of 2000, the Exchange announced today. This represents an increase of more than 75% over the combined financing figures for the new exchange's predecessors, the Vancouver Stock Exchange (VSE) and the Alberta Stock Exchange (ASE), for the same period a year ago.

Technology companies raised \$667 million or 58% of the \$1.142 billion total. Of the 20 largest January to June financings exceeding \$7 million, 14 were completed by internet, telecommunications, software, life science research and other technology companies. The largest financing in the period - \$50 million - was recorded on May 24, 2000 by Ezenet Corp. cl A, a Tier 1 company that develops and markets software.

''Venture capital investing in Canada has grown at a remarkable rate, as recent statistics published by the Canadian Venture Capital Association have shown'', Bill Hess, CDNX president and CEO says. ``The public market venture capital alternative plays a vital role as mentor and incubator to start up companies. Confidence in our market has been fueled by the early success of CDNX. Despite the recent correction among technology stocks, Canadian venture capital levels remain strong, with higher dollar value financings on the increase.''

From January 1 through June 30, 2000, resource companies accounted for 23% of the total funds raised, with mining companies raising \$184 million and oil & gas financings at \$81 million.

In addition to Ezenet Corp., the largest financings in the first 6 months include:

Unique Broadband Systems	\$41.0 million
Micrologix Biotech	\$40.0 million
eDispatch.com Wireless Data	\$31.5 million
ACD Systems	\$22.5 million
Gabriel Resources	\$16.0 million

Isotechnika	\$14.5 million
stox.com	\$14.0 million
Sideware Systems	\$11.0 million
First Star Energy Ltd.	\$11.0 million
International Sales Information	\$10.4 million
MedMira	\$10.0 million
Kast Telecom	\$10.0 million

Private placements dominated the equity financing numbers, with 921 completed during the period for a total of \$1.071 million or 94% of all financings. Initial public offerings accounted for \$60 million and an additional \$11 million was raised via secondary public offerings.

The Canadian Venture Exchange (CDNX) was launched in November 1999 with some 2,300 listed companies active in the technology, resource, industrial and manufacturing sectors. As the country's venture capital marketplace, CDNX provides emerging companies with improved access to capital while providing investors with a well-regulated market in which to make venture investments.

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