



**FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS' MANAGING PARTNER AND  
FOUNDER STEVE MCLAUGHLIN AWARDED  
2005-2006 FINANCING PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR**

**San Francisco, CA – June 21, 2006** – Financial Technology Partners LP and FTP Securities LLC (collectively “FT Partners”) is pleased to announce that its Managing Partner and Founder, Steve McLaughlin, was awarded the 2005-2006 “Financing Professional of the Year” by *The M&A Advisor* in its inaugural Middle Market Financing Awards.

This prestigious award recognizes the impact of FT Partners and Mr. McLaughlin’s role in pioneering new financing advisory services and the significant value created for its clients along the way. This year’s finalists and winners represent the elite middle market deal-makers of 2005-2006. The Award’s Advisory Committee elaborated on the selection decision noting that “Steve McLaughlin and his team are responsible for the emergence of the IPO advisory role. By serving as IPO advisor to VeriFone, Steve McLaughlin may have radically altered the way companies decide to go public.”

The winners were announced at a formal awards dinner at the close of *The M&A Advisor's* 15th Conference on Tuesday, June 20 at The Drake Hotel in Chicago. This marks the third consecutive year *The M&A Advisor* has recognized FT Partners with more than 15 award nominations. Previous awards won by FT Partners included “Deal of the Year” in 2005 for its role as IPO Advisor to VeriFone and “Investment Banking Firm of the Year” in 2004 for its leadership in the investment banking arena. “This is an exciting time for FT Partners and our industry and we are extremely honored to be recognized with the Financing Professional of the Year award,” said Mr. McLaughlin.

FT Partners was selected as a finalist in several other categories for the 2005 – 2006 Middle Market Financing Awards:

- Financing Deal of the Year - Debt
- Financing Deal of the Year - Equity
- Financing Principle of the Year
- Financing Professional of the Year
- Industry Financing in Financial Services

The awards were based on FT Partners recent transactions including:

- Liquidnet in its \$250,000,000 capital raise;
- Investment Technology Group, Inc. (NYSE: ITG) in its \$230,000,000 cash acquisition of The Macgregor Group, a leading provider of trade order management systems;
- Verus Financial Management in its \$325,000,000 sale to Sage Group plc (LSE: SGE.L);
- VeriFone Holdings (NYSE: PAY) in its \$177,000,000 initial public offering.

***About M&A Advisor Middle Market Financing Awards***

The M&A Advisor Middle Market Financing Awards is an annual selection of companies and individuals in middle market M&A who have, through their hard work and innovation, made significant contributions to the middle market M&A industry. This awards program is about people and their company's contributions that allow their companies and the mergers and acquisitions industry to do business better. This awards ceremony honors the outstanding transactions, firms, and individuals in the mergers and acquisitions industry throughout the past year. This year's award winners were selected from 73 finalists in 13 different categories and only the very best are chosen. The finalists and winner's represent the elite deal-makers of 2005-2006. Through their superior achievements in this difficult and fast-paced economy, they have earned the right to be recognized for their excellence in finance.

***About Financial Technology Partners LP and FTP Securities LLC***

FT Partners 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. Mr. McLaughlin formerly was 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 form FT Partners. FT Partners 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. FT Partners was recognized by *The M&A Advisor* as "Investment Banking Firm of the Year" for 2004 and for its role as IPO advisor to VeriFone Holdings, Inc. (NYSE:PAY) in the "Computer and Information Technology Deal of the Year" for 2005. The firm offers CEO-level services, including mergers and acquisitions advisory, IPO advisory, refinancing, recapitalization and private capital raising. FT Partners was founded by Mr. McLaughlin in late 2001 and is based in San Francisco. Steven J. McLaughlin is a registered representative of FTP Securities LLC, an NASD broker-dealer and a wholly owned subsidiary of Financial Technology Partners LP. Any securities related transactions contemplated by or acted upon hereunder are conducted solely by Mr. McLaughlin in this capacity. For additional information, visit <http://www.ftpartners.com>.

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