

**FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING:
NEW ENGLAND'S TECH ELITE LOOK TO THE
5th ANNUAL NANTUCKET CONFERENCE
FOR UNVARNISHED DISCUSSION ON
WHERE THE TECHNOLOGY BETS ARE BEING PLACED**

*Invitation-only event attracts 175 investors, entrepreneurs, and tech execs for
idea-sharing, debate, industry and market discussions*

BOSTON, February 9, 2004 – Future Forward Events LLC today released its initial list of distinguished speakers for the fifth annual Nantucket Conference on Entrepreneurship and Innovation. The Nantucket Conference, an invitation-only event that brings together senior technology executives and entrepreneurs from throughout New England for shared dialogue and networking, will be held April 29 – May 1, 2004 at the Harbor House on Nantucket Island.

This year's speaker list is dominated by New England's serial entrepreneurs, technology risk-takers, and industry visionaries who have founded or led some of the most groundbreaking and influential companies in the industry. Initial speakers include:

- Howard Anderson - Senior Managing Director, YankeeTek Ventures
- Jeff Anderson - CEO, Turbine Entertainment Software
- Carl Ascenzo - CIO, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts
- Gururaj "Desh" Deshpande - Chairman, Sycamore Networks
- George Gilder - Chairman, Gilder Publishing LLC
- Don Haile - President, Fidelity Investments Systems Co.
- Brian Keane - CEO, Keane, Inc.
- Eric Lander - Founding Director, Broad Institute
- Bob Metcalfe - General Partner, Polaris Venture Partners

The Nantucket Conference, designed to be an unvarnished exploration of the technology business landscape, is the only event of its kind in New England and has sold out for the past four years. Sessions planned for this year include "Building Momentum, Establishing Advantage: Setting a Course for Growth and Surviving Strategic Missteps," "Venture Capital and Investment Banking: What's Changing, and What Else Ought to Change," and "Globalization and Off-Shoring: Can (and Should) the Tide be Turned?"

"With a rebounding economy and local innovation skyrocketing, now is the time for candid dialogue between peers about the next technology opportunities in New England," said Shayne Gilbert, conference co-chair and founder of Boston's Silverweave, Inc. "For five years now, The Nantucket Conference has provided a rare, high-quality opportunity for technology executives to gather together and share common experiences, successes and challenges. The interactive format and intimate setting encourages an open and honest dialogue and enables participants to really connect with their peers --- the movers and shakers of New England technology."

Nantucket Conference 2004 sponsors include, Bingham McCutchen LLP, Ernst & Young, Gustin Partners, Invest Northern Ireland, Molecular and Silicon Valley Bank. The full agenda and speaker list are online at <http://www.nantucketconference.com/agenda.html>.

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