

**Steven Brewster, (408) 535-8168**  
**San Jose Office of Economic Development**

## **San Jose and Dublin, Ireland, Today Kick Off the 21st Anniversary of Their Sister City Relationship at Welcome Breakfast**

**SAN JOSE, CALIF.**—(March 9, 2007)—The 21st anniversary of the sister city designation between San Jose, California, and Dublin, Ireland, began today with San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed hosting a celebratory kick-off welcome breakfast for the Dublin Lord Mayor Vincent Jackson and members of the San Jose and Dublin Sister City Delegations.

Established in 1986, the San Jose & Dublin Sister City Program relationship was initiated by then Mayor of San Jose, Tom McEnery, and the current Prime Minister of Ireland, Bertie Ahern, then Lord Mayor of Dublin. The program, known as “twinning” in Ireland, has thrived throughout its two-decade existence and develops cultural, economic, artistic and sporting ties between San Jose/Silicon Valley and Dublin.

“San Jose’s sister city connection with Dublin is a powerful model for others to follow. Over its 21-year existence, both San Jose and Dublin have benefited from sharing civic, business and economic development best practices. At the same time, we have built a two-way cross-cultural exchange that has paved the way for strong friendships and long-term, productive relationships,” said Reed.

Emceed by KRON-TV anchorwoman, Catherine Heenan, the welcome event, a traditional Irish breakfast complete with bangers (sausages) and rashers (bacon), was held at the Silicon Valley Capital Club, in the heart of downtown San Jose. The 360-degree view from one of the tallest buildings in the City provided a geographical overview for the day about to unfold. The welcome breakfast was followed by a flag-raising ceremony held a few blocks away on the plaza of the San Jose City Hall. Designed by Richard Meier, the 18-story building served as a contemporary backdrop to the annual ceremonial proceedings that included the San Jose Fire Department and San Jose Police Department Color Guard, and the student choir from San Jose’s St. John Vianney Grade School.

“The sister city mission is about working to build cooperation at the municipal level, promote cultural understanding and stimulate economic development. To this last point, we want to help both Irish and U.S. companies grow and sustain positions in the global marketplace by strengthening relationships and continually building our business networks that will benefit companies on both continents,” said Shane Patrick Connolly, president of the San Jose & Dublin Sister City Program.

According to Paul Krutko, chief development officer, City of San Jose, there are more than 35 Silicon Valley companies with an Irish presence, including Adobe, Cadence Design Systems, Cisco Systems, eBay, Flextronics, IBM, Quantum and Xilinx.

“Companies understand that success depends largely on having a positive business climate and a strong, well-educated talent pool to produce high value, ground-breaking products and services. Both of these attributes have helped to earn Dublin as being the top technological hotbed within the European Union. Likewise, it has kept San Jose in the spotlight as the world’s center for innovation,” Krutko said.

To further that spirit of innovation and deepen economic ties, the Dublin delegation will also take part in the Spirit of Ireland Award Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Saturday, March 10, at the San Jose Fairmont Hotel.

The Dinner honors those individuals and/or organizations whose accomplishments have exemplified the relationship between San Jose/Silicon Valley and Ireland. This year’s recipient will be Colm Meaney, a top Irish actor. Recipients have included Gordon Moore of Intel, John Lewis of Amdahl, Nobel Peace Prize recipient John Hume, and President Bill Clinton as well as The National Theatre of Ireland (The Abbey Theatre) and the San Jose Repertory Theatre. For tickets to the Spirit of Ireland Award Dinner, visit, [www.sanjosedublin.org](http://www.sanjosedublin.org).

### **About the City of San Jose’s Office of Economic Development**

The City of San Jose's Office of Economic Development (OED) is committed to a vital, competitive San Jose economy that increases prosperity for people and companies and enhances City revenues. The Office guides the City's economic strategy, provides assistance for business success, helps connect employers with trained workers, and provides art, sporting and cultural resources to our community. For more information, please visit, [www.sjeconomy.com](http://www.sjeconomy.com).

### **About the City of San Jose**

From its founding in 1777 as California's first city, San Jose has been a leader, driven by its spirit of innovation. Today, San Jose stands as the largest city in Northern California and the Capital of Silicon Valley—the world's leading center of innovation. The city, the 10<sup>th</sup> largest in the U.S., is committed to remaining a top-ranked place to do business, work, live, play and learn. For more information, visit, [www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov).

###