



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONNECT to Induct General Atomics' Neal and Linden Blue
into Entrepreneur Hall of Fame; Jan. 28**

SAN DIEGO – Neal Blue, chairman and CEO of General Atomics, and Linden Blue, vice chairman of General Atomics, will be inducted into the Entrepreneur Hall of Fame on Jan. 28, by CONNECT, the San Diego region's non-profit technology and life sciences accelerator.

The Entrepreneur Hall of Fame celebrates San Diego's entrepreneurial heroes who have paved the way for today's technological innovations and cutting-edge businesses, and who continue to inspire future generations of entrepreneurs. This will be the first time that CONNECT has honored two Hall of Fame recipients at the same time. Recipients are inducted during a luncheon event and tell their story in a live interview.

“The contributions that Neal and Linden Blue have made to the high-technology sector have been paramount to America's leadership in these industries and to our national security,” said Duane Roth, CEO of CONNECT. “The Blues have played a groundbreaking leadership role in our community, building and growing the defense and aerospace cluster while creating countless jobs for San Diegans. We are honored to induct them into our Entrepreneur Hall of Fame.”

Brothers Neal and Linden bought La Jolla-based General Atomics, a nuclear-power research company, in 1986. In little more than two decades, Neal and Linden built upon General Atomics to create a diversified international high-technology group of companies with world leadership positions in nuclear fusion, fission, laser technologies, ultra wide-band telecommunications, and electromagnetic propulsion technologies ranging from aircraft carrier launch and recovery systems to magnetic levitation for rail transport. The General Atomics group is best known for manufacturing unmanned air-vehicle systems, such as the Predator®, which have become the acknowledged leading innovations in the delivery of situational awareness in support of American forces. Headquartered in San Diego, the privately held group of companies currently employs more than 6,000 worldwide.

Neal and Linden Blue will be honored on Jan. 28 at a luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Estancia La Jolla Hotel. Those interested in attending should visit <http://connect.kintera.org/bluehalloffame> for ticket information and further details. Past

winner include: Walter Zable, Cubic Corporation; Irwin Jacobs, Qualcomm; Ivor Royston, Forward Ventures; Bill Rastetter, IDEC; and Bob Beyster, SAIC.

About CONNECT

CONNECT is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating and sustaining the growth of innovative technology and life science businesses in San Diego. Since 1985, CONNECT has assisted in the formation and development of over 1,200 companies and is widely regarded as the nation's most successful regional program linking inventors and entrepreneurs with the resources they need for success. Its programs include: Springboard, Venture Round Table, Frontiers in Science and Technology, FrameWorks, CEO Strategy Forum and Connect with CONNECT; affiliate programs with The Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology (CCAT), Tech Coast Angels (TCA), Wireless-Life Sciences Alliance (WLSA), and MIT Enterprise Forum (MITEF); and its awards and recognition programs, Hall of Fame, and The Most Innovative Products (MIP) Awards. For more information, please visit www.connect.org.

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