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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SonTek/YSI Recognized with Workplace Excellence Award

San Diego, CA, November 18, 2009 – Gayle Rominger, Executive Vice President for Ohio-based YSI Inc., announced that SonTek/YSI, a division of YSI located in Sorrento Valley, CA, has been recognized with a Workplace Excellence Award (WEA) Medallion by the San Diego Society for Human Resource Management (SD SHRM), a chapter of the national SHRM organization. According to its website, SD SHRM's WEA Awards "educate and enlighten San Diego business leaders on the contributions that exceptional HR practices make to the success and profitability of an organization."

Ms. Rominger and several SonTek employees attended San Diego SHRM's November 11 gala event honoring the best in HR practices. SonTek is one of only 30 companies in the San Diego area recognized with a 2009 WEA Medallion, out of a total 129 that applied and 45 that made it to the judged evaluation portion of the process.

In an essay required as part of the WEA application, Maria Brown, SonTek Operations Supervisor, focused on the effect YSI's employee ownership – one of its core values – has on retention. YSI introduced its Employee Stock Ownership Plan in 1983. President and CEO Rick Omlor believes that the company's ESOP has indeed become "a distinct and compelling competitive advantage."

Nearly 46% of SonTek's employees have at least 5 or more years of service; 12% have more than 10 years; and another 12% have more than 20 years of service. Brown also cited numerous human resource practices that reward, motivate, and retain employees including, for example, an alternative fuel/hybrid incentive program and full tuition reimbursement.

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SonTek/YSI, founded in 1992 and advancing environmental science in over 100 countries, manufactures affordable, reliable acoustic Doppler instrumentation for water velocity measurement in oceans, rivers, lakes, harbors, estuaries, and laboratories. SonTek/YSI is headquartered in San Diego, California, and is part of YSI Inc., an employee owned company that provides monitoring and data collection instrumentation to global water quality, water quantity, and aquaculture markets.