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For Immediate Release

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**Founders Growth Advisors and ValuTech Solutions
To Offer Strategic Advisory Services**

McLean, VA- January 19, 2004 - Founders Growth Advisors, LLC and ValuTech Solutions, Inc. announced today that they will collaborate to provide strategic and acquisition advisory services to firms providing selected products and services in the utility automation and energy management markets.

The collaboration creates a unique resource for corporations, private investors, and entrepreneurs that combines the strategic insight, analytical capabilities and deal execution expertise of FGA's principals with ValuTech's industry knowledge, technical expertise and in-depth knowledge of utility automation and automated meter reading (AMR) technologies. Together, the two firms will offer unparalleled, industry focused expertise to firms seeking to create significant value through development of new business relationships, partnerships, or other financial arrangements.

"Our collaboration means that clients will have one source capable of helping them assess the technical, strategic and financial merits of an individual transaction or larger corporate development initiative," states Glenn Tofil, Managing Partner. "In addition to these advisory capabilities, our combined industry knowledge, business relationships and strategic intelligence capabilities ensure that proper partners are brought to the table as part of an acquisition, financing or divestiture assignment."

"ValuTech Solutions is pleased to accept this opportunity to work with Glenn and the FGA team to provide industry focused expertise in the formation of value creating relationships in the utility automation and energy management markets," states Ed Finamore, ValuTech's President. "Founders Growth Advisors has really captured the essence of utility automation and energy management market needs, and can bring creative partnering and financing solutions expertise to companies looking to leverage their capabilities in the rapidly consolidating energy technology industry."

About Founders Growth Advisors

Founders Growth Advisors is an industry focused investment bank providing mergers and acquisitions and capital raising advisory services to corporations, financial sponsors and management teams. FGA combines the industry knowledge, strategic insight and proven deal execution expertise of the principals with the customized research and analytical capabilities of strategic intelligence specialists to deliver superior effectiveness in identifying, evaluating and closing value-creating transactions.

FGA's principals have extensive middle market merger and acquisition experience, and a significant track record in financing transactions and maintaining extensive relationships with senior lenders, mezzanine capital providers and private equity groups focused on the middle market. For more information about these service offerings and capabilities, please contact Glenn Tofil at (703) 757-8760 or by e-mail at gtofil@foundersadvisors.com.

About ValuTech Solutions

ValuTech Solutions provides management consulting services to utilities, energy marketers, system integrators and equipment manufacturers in the energy technology industry. Specializing in AMR, utility automation, deregulation and energy management applications, ValuTech Solutions helps companies to formulate business strategies and locate, acquire or implement solutions for success in the competitive utility energy markets. For more information, call ValuTech Solutions at (412) 299-5684, or e-mail: info@valutechsolutions.com.

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