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**High-Tech Visionaries Think Small as Judges for  
You Be the VC Start-Up Competition**

*Red Sox's Curt Schilling, Google's Marissa Mayer and thought leader Jason Pontin  
among panelists*

Cambridge, Mass. – November 13, 2007 – Bang Ventures, creators of the entrepreneur competition You Be the VC, is proud to announce the charter group of technology industry leaders who have signed on as judges helping to select America's next great tech start-up.

The judges include some of the biggest names in the business, such as Marissa Mayer, who heads up Search Products & User Experience for Google, and world champion Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling, whose passion for video games led him to establish and run the ground-breaking 38 Studios. The group also includes Jason Pontin, noted industry thinker and editor of the *Technology Review*; Craig Walker, co-founder of innovative voice communications company GrandCentral; Always On chief Tony Perkins; Slide Inc. vice president of strategy and business development Keith Rabois; Leah Culver, co-founder and lead engineer at Pownce; Jim Fowler, CEO and co-founder of online business card directory Jigsaw; and tech pundit Bambi Francisco, who has brought an expert's view on Silicon Valley to MSNBC audiences since the dot-com boom and recently launched Vator.tv, a site for tech investors and entrepreneurs.

"You Be the VC is really catching fire and this incredible line-up of expert judges is more proof of that," said Mark Modzelewski of Bang Ventures. "What entrepreneur wouldn't want to get their idea in front of Google, Slide and AlwaysOn for feedback? The comments will also provide the public with incredible insights to drive their voting on the 20 finalists as they pick the three winning start ups."

The You Be the VC contest focuses on technologies for Web 2.0, including social networking, advanced search, Enterprise 2.0, advertising and mobile applications. The prize is a complete launch pad for creating a successful start-up: investment capital, office space, programming/web development, legal, accounting and business strategy consultation, and marketing and sales support. The winners will be able to take their start ups from concept to operational company over the course of next summer.

"Google grew from the entrepreneurial idea that the industry's approach to search needed to be redefined," noted Google Vice President of Search Products and User Experience Marissa Mayer. "You Be the VC is a great opportunity to gain insight into the fresh ideas that will shape the industry in the future, and I'm excited to play a role in the process."

More information about the contest, including rules and advice for entering, can be found at [www.youbethevc.com](http://www.youbethevc.com).

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### **About Bang Ventures**

Bang Ventures is a New York based investment firm with offices in Cambridge and is focused on early stage emerging technology companies.

Bang Ventures isn't a VC firm. It helps smart and driven people co-found fantastic new companies, providing entrepreneurs with a roof over their heads, mentoring, a deep network of contacts, marketing support, professional services and other technical support....and yes, funding as well. Launched in 2007, Bang Ventures gets into the projects at the inception phase, evaluating opportunities and empowering entrepreneurs to develop strong companies. The firm is currently focused on investing in North America and Eastern/Central Europe in sectors ranging from Web 2.0 to clean tech to medical devices.

### **About You Be the VC**

Equal parts incubator and American Idol, You Be the VC is a competition to find the best new entrepreneurs in the United States. New company ideas are submitted and judged by business leaders, then selected by voters on the You Be the VC site, which also serves as an online community for people interested in building new companies. Visit [www.youbethevc.com](http://www.youbethevc.com) for more details.