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Pierre Buffet—Winner of the Online Information Lifetime Achievement Award

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Pierre Buffet, Questel-Orbit Managing Director, was awarded the Online Silver Jubilee Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to the information industry. As Martin White, Online 2001 Conference Chair explained, the award recognizes individuals that epitomize "excellence in all things and a constant quest for quality. Excellence in supporting others, in creating networks among professionals. Excellence in understanding the principles of information. Excellence in languages...Above all, a commitment to the information profession."

Pierre Buffet began his career in the electronic information industry 31 years ago. He received a degree in Engineering in Informatics in 1969. He worked for the Operational Research group of the French Navy before serving as Head of the CNRS Documentation Center's Computer Department, where he established the Pascal System. He co-founded Questel in 1978 and served as Database Manager. Currently, he is Managing Director in charge of strategy.

Mr. Buffet is a programme committee member of the International Chemical Information Conference organized by Infonortics and a trustee of the Chemical Structure Association Trust.

Previously, he served for 10 years as Associate Editor of the ACS Journal of Chemical Information and Computer Sciences and received the Eusidic Personality Award in 1987.

Two years ago, together with Questel-Orbit Chairman and CEO Jean Besson, he spearheaded two strategic initiatives:

- the management buy-out
- narrowing the company's focus on its core strength: industrial property information services

These moves have set the company on the road to financial independence and reaffirmed its position as the world's leading provider of patent and trademark information.

Mr. Buffet expressed his gratitude to customers, friends, colleagues and bosses around the world who supported him throughout his career and inspired his significant contributions to the information industry. He saved his most important thanks for last to his wife and family, saying: "Behind every successful man is a woman who made it all happen."

Press Release

About Questel•Orbit, S.A.:

Questel•Orbit has been helping manage some of the world's most important IP portfolios for the last 25 years. The company provides best-of-breed IP data and search products, including a database containing the world's most comprehensive collection of patents.

The Intellectual Property Group is Questel•Orbit's major shareholder and specializes in patent and trademark rights.