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ChinaNet Online Holdings Participates in International Youth Innovation Games

BEIJING, Oct. 2, 2012 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- ChinaNet Online Holdings, Inc. (Nasdaq:CNET) (the "Company"), a leading B2B (business to business) Internet technology company focusing on providing online-to-offline ("O2O") sales channel expansion services for small businesses (so-called small and medium-sized enterprises ("SMEs") in China) and entrepreneurial management and LINK services for entrepreneurs in the People's Republic of China, today announced that the Company participated as a sponsor and promoter of the 2012 International Youth Innovation Games ("the Games").

Organized by Peking University and supported by China's Ministry of Education, the International Youth Innovation Games is one of the largest innovation competitions in the world. The Games is divided into four categories — innovative design, creative marketing, innovation management, and business practices — and designed to promote creativity and innovation among students and entrepreneurs. The event, held in Innovation Stadium attracted over 20,000 teams and 100,000 participants through a combination of in-person and online submissions.

"We are proud to be a sponsor and promoter of the International Youth Innovation Games," Mr. George Chu, COO of ChinaNet stated. The mission of the Games — to discover talented, innovative individuals and ideas — is a perfect match for ChinaNet. We promoted the Games through our platforms, including a mobile app designed specifically for this year's competition. Participants and businesses also learned more about our tools and technology through our sponsorship activities. By exposing our products to thousands of innovative individuals and organizations, we will build a large pipeline of potential new customers."

About ChinaNet Online Holdings, Inc.

The Company, a parent company of ChinaNet Online Media Group Ltd., incorporated in the BVI ("ChinaNet"), is a leading B2B (business to business) Internet technology company focusing on providing O2O (online to offline) sales channel expansion service for small businesses (or so-called small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in China) and entrepreneurial management and LINK service for entrepreneurs in China. The Company, through certain contractual arrangements with operating companies in the PRC, provides Internet advertising and other services for Chinese small businesses via its portal websites, 28.com, Liansuo.com and Chuangye.com (for entrepreneurs' Linking services), TV commercials and program production via China-Net TV, and in-house LCD advertising on banking kiosks targeting Chinese banking patrons. Website: <http://www.chinanet-online.com>.

Safe Harbor

This release contains certain "forward-looking statements" relating to the business of ChinaNet Online Holdings, Inc., which can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "believes," "expects," "anticipates," "estimates" or similar expressions. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties, including business uncertainties relating to government regulation of our industry, market demand, reliance on key personnel, future capital requirements, competition in general and other factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from those described herein as anticipated, believed, estimated or expected. Certain of these risks and uncertainties are or will be described in greater detail in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These forward-looking statements are based on ChinaNet's current expectations and beliefs concerning future developments and their potential effects on the company. There can be no assurance that future developments affecting ChinaNet will be those anticipated by ChinaNet. These forward-looking statements involve a number of risks, uncertainties (some of which are beyond the control of the Company) or other assumptions that may cause actual results or performance to be materially different from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. ChinaNet undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as may be required under applicable securities laws.

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