

August 13, 2012

ChinaNet Online Holdings Adds New Strategic Investors

BEIJING, Aug. 13, 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 and medium-sized enterprises ("SMEs") and entrepreneurial management and networking services for entrepreneurs in the People's Republic of China, today announced that one of the Company's founding shareholders entered into a stock purchase agreement with the founder and Chairman of Ever Bright Investment Capital (the "EBI") and another accredited investor, pursuant to which the founding shareholder sold 1,279,080 shares of common stock of the Company for \$3 million, or approximately \$2.35 per share.

"We are delighted to add new strategic investors," stated George Chu, Chief Operating Officer of ChinaNet Online Holdings, Inc. "As a high growth company focusing on expanding its product suite and customer base, the Company will benefit from Mr. Qiu's expertise and resources in helping high growth companies attract talent, upgrade management systems, and find strategic partners. We will also benefit from his network of political and industry contacts that will further enhance our growth initiatives, especially in the south and south east regions in China."

Established in 2004, EBI is a leading private equity firm in China that focuses on investments in undervalued private Chinese companies and public Chinese companies listed in foreign markets. EBI has invested in dozens of growth companies such as China Grand Auto (see <http://www.chinagrandauto.com/>), Zhengzhou Coal Mining Machinery (A-share 601717), Rongsheng Heavy Industries (1101: HK). EBI has been elected as one of the TOP 50 PEs in China by both China Venture (see <http://www.chinaventure.com.cn/>) and Zero2IPO Group (see <http://www.zero2ipogroup.com/>) in 2011, with offices in Beijing, Chengdu and Shanghai.

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 and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurial management and networking 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 SMEs via its portal websites, 28.com, Liansuo.com and Chuangye.com, 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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Source: ChinaNet Online Holdings, Inc.

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