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For Immediate Release

Conestoga Capital Advisors Named Sub-Advisor to Forward Legato Fund (FFLMX)

Philadelphia-area investment firm to contribute distinct small cap core management style

Radnor, PA, April 6, 2005 - Conestoga Capital Advisors, LLC (Conestoga), an independent investment advisory firm specializing in the management of small cap equities, has been selected as one of three sub-advisors for Forward Management, LLC's Forward Legato Fund (the Fund), a small cap multi-manager fund.

Conestoga's Managers, William Martindale and Robert Mitchell, will co-manage for Conestoga and have operated as a team managing separate accounts and mutual funds since 1995. They bring 46 combined years of experience in small cap investing to the Fund.

"We are honored to be selected by Forward Management and Legato Capital Management LLC as a sub-advisor for the Fund, along with managers at Riverbridge Partners and Netols Asset Management," says William Martindale, Chief Investment Officer for Conestoga. "I think the three different management styles will uniquely complement each other. The core or conservative growth style we employ will hold true to our firms values of seeking out well managed companies with better than average earnings growth and lower valuation multiples versus the Russell 2000."

Forward Legato Fund Snapshot

Inception Date:	April 1, 2005
Ticker:	FFLMX
Benchmark:	Russell 2000 Index
Total Assets:	\$6,000,000
Strategies:	Fund's managers employ small cap core, growth and value strategies
Load:	4.75% of the initial offering price. (Class A Shares)
Minimum Investment:	\$2,500 for non-retirement accounts, \$1000 for education and retirement accounts and \$500 for Automatic Investment Plan investments

About Conestoga Capital Advisors, LLC

Conestoga Capital Advisors, LLC (www.conestogacapital.com) is an independent investment advisory firm, specializing in the management of small cap equities. Conestoga Capital Advisors' style is described as small cap conservative growth, employing a "growth at a reasonable price" valuation methodology. The firm's portfolio managers utilize a fundamental, bottom-up research approach and

employ a fully invested, buy and hold management style. Co-Portfolio Managers Bill Martindale and Robert Mitchell also manage the Conestoga Small Cap Fund (Nasdaq: CCASX)

About Forward Management, LLC

Forward Management, LLC, based in San Francisco, provides investment management services and products for institutional money managers, financial advisors and individual investors. Forward specializes in identifying sub-advisors who have long track records of managing assets in specific investment disciplines and asset classes. It has partnered with a range of sub-advisors to create two different mutual fund families, the Forward Funds, a family of six no-load Funds and the three Sierra Club Mutual Funds.

For more information about Conestoga Capital, LLC visit www.conestogacapital.com or call Rip Scott, Director of Marketing at (484) 654-1385. Please direct media inquiries to Joseph Mitchell at (215) 563-4846.

For more information about the Forward Legato Fund and other Forward Funds, including investment objectives, risks, charges, management fees and expenses, visit www.forwardfunds.com or call (800) 999-6809. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.