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KUZNETSOVA AND DOUBLES TEAM OF MEDINA GARRIGUES & RUANO PASCUAL QUALIFY FOR SONY ERICSSON CHAMPIONSHIPS

- **Russian is sixth player to claim spot at \$4.45 million season-ending event in Doha**
- **The Beijing Olympics Silver Medalists become second team to qualify for the doubles event**

ST.PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, USA – Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova is the sixth singles player to secure her ticket to Doha, while in the doubles event the Spanish duo of Anabel Medina Garrigues and Virginia Ruano Pascual are the second team to qualify for the season-ending Sony Ericsson Championships. They join the previously qualified players Jelena Jankovic, Serena Williams, Dinara Safina, Ana Ivanovic, Elena Dementieva and the doubles team of Cara Black & Liezel Huber in Doha, where the world's top eight singles players and top four doubles teams from the 2008 Sony Ericsson WTA Tour season are to compete for the Championships title from November 4-9, 2008.

By reaching the quarterfinals of last week's Kremlin Cup in Moscow, Kuznetsova has accumulated 2,623 points – enough points to become the sixth player to clinch her spot in Doha. Maria Sharapova, currently ranked No.7 with 2,515 points, Vera Zvonareva with 2,475 points, Venus Williams with 2,322 points and Angnieska Radwanska with 2,136 points, are the players with the best chances to grab the remaining two spots in the weeks leading to the Sony Ericsson Championships.

"I feel honored to make it again to the Sony Ericsson Championships. I have worked hard to get my game back especially in the second half of the season so I'm looking forward to finishing the season in Doha with a good performance. I like playing outdoors so I'm quite excited about the final highlight of the year," said Kuznetsova, who will be making her fourth career and her third consecutive appearance at the year-end Sony Ericsson Championships.

This season, the current world No.7, finished runner-up at five tournaments including at the Medibank International in Sydney, the Barclays Dubai Tennis Championships in Dubai, the Pacific Life Open in Indian Wells, the Toray Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo, and most recently at the China Open in Beijing. She was also a semifinalist at the Sony Ericsson Open in Miami and at Roland Garros, and won her third title with team Russia in Fed-Cup competition.

"It's an unbelievable feeling to qualify for my first Sony Ericsson Championships," said Medina Garrigues.

"We have had a very good year and we are really looking forward to the challenge to battle for the Championships title," added Ruano Pascual.

"Svetlana, Virginia and Anabel have all had great 2008 seasons and earned places among the elite group of players competing at the Sony Ericsson Championships. Svetlana is a true fan favorite the world over and has displayed remarkable consistency over the past years", said Larry Scott, CEO of the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour. "Anabel and Virginia have been the surprise team of the season in doubles. They both have an excellent doubles pedigree and as a combination have excelled this year."

The team of Medina Garrigues and Ruano Pascual has won titles at the Moorilla Hobart International in Hobart, Nordea Nordic Light Open in Stockholm, the Banka Koper Slovenia Open in Portoroz, and most notably at Roland Garros. Other highlights include winning the Silver Medal at the Beijing Olympics and reaching the semi-final at the Australian Open and the US Open. Medina Garrigues, the current world No.4 on the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour Doubles Ranking, has won 12 Sony Ericsson WTA Tour doubles titles in her career while her doubles partner, Ruano Pascual, current world No.9 and one of the most successful doubles players in Tour history, has already captured her 41st career doubles title this season.

The Sony Ericsson WTA Tour is the world's largest premier professional sport for women with more than 2,000 players representing 90 nations competing for \$70.8 million in prize money at the Tour's 58 events in 34 countries. More than 4.7 million people attended women's tennis events in 2007 with millions more watching events on television networks around the world. The Sony Ericsson WTA Tour season concludes with the Sony Ericsson Championships – Doha 2008 in Doha, Qatar, November 4-9, 2008. Further information on the Tour can be found on the Internet at www.sonyericssonwtatour.com.

The 2008 US Open Doubles Champions Black & Huber, who already qualified several weeks ago, currently lead the Doubles Race with 5,768 points followed by today's qualifiers Medina Garrigues & Ruano Pascual. Just two doubles spots in the Race to the Sony Ericsson Championships remain and currently the Czech-Australian team of Kveta Peschke & Rennae Stubbs and the Ukrainian sisters and Australian Open Champions, Alona and Kateryna Bondarenko are ranked third and fourth with 2,489 points and 2,349 points respectively. They are closely followed by the Japanese-Slovenian team of Ai Sugiyama and Katarina Srebotnik with 2,282 points and Chuang Chia-Jung and Chan Yung-Jan of Chinese Taipei with 2,196 points. This week's Tennis.com Zurich Open and the upcoming Generali Ladies Linz will be the last chance for any of those teams to grab their spot for the Championships.

"Each year the excitement of the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour finale surpasses that of the previous year. This year, strong doubles teams such as Medina Garrigues and Ruano Pascual and singles players such as Svetlana qualifying, ensure that the 2008 Sony Ericsson Championships in Doha will continue this trend." said Aldo Liguori, Corporate Vice President and Head of Global Communications & PR at Sony Ericsson.

Sony Ericsson is committed to bringing entertainment, innovation and glamour to tennis by creating unique sporting events such as the 2008 Sony Ericsson Championships in Doha. This tournament will bring the excitement of the game to a new audience, with the city of Doha set to benefit from the biggest tennis event ever to be held in the region. Sony Ericsson strives to energize the fan experience at the Championships, by bringing them closer to tennis through the integration of innovation and technology, to deliver the best possible sports experience.

The Championships were first played in 1972 and since then the event has been held in such notable venues as Madison Square Garden, New York City, the Olympiahalle in Munich, Staples Center in Los Angeles, and the Recinto Ferial Casa de Campo in Madrid. Former singles champions include Tracy Austin, Kim Clijsters, Chris Evert, Evonne Goolagong, Steffi Graf, Martina Hingis, Martina Navratilova, Gabriela Sabatini, Serena Williams and Justine Henin.

RACE TO THE SONY ERICSSON CHAMPIONSHIPS - DOHA 2008

(as of October 16, 2008)

SINGLES			DOUBLES		
PLAYER	POINTS	RACE STANDING (as of 10/16)	TEAM	POINTS	RACE STANDING (as of 10/16)
Jelena Jankovic**	4,825	1	Cara Black & Liezel Huber**	5,768	1
Dinara Safina**	3,823	2	Anabel Medina Garrigues & Virginia Ruano Pascual**	2,734	2
Serena Williams**	3,681	3	Kveta Peschke & Rennae Stubbs	2,489	3
Elena Dementieva	3,235	4	Alona Bondarenko & Kateryna Bondarenko	2,349	4
Ana Ivanovic**	2,993	5	Ai Sugiyama & Katarina Srebotnik	2,282	5
Svetlana Kuznetsova**	2,623	6	Chuang Chia-Jung & Chan Yung-Jan	2,196	6
Maria Sharapova	2,515	7	Lisa Raymond & Samantha Stosur	2,097	7
Vera Zvonareva	2,475	8	Yan Zi & Zheng Jie	2,093	8
Venus Williams	2,322	9			
Agnieszka Radwanska	2,136	10			
Nadia Petrova	1,704	11			
Caroline Wozniacki	1,641	12			

** Denotes player/team has already qualified

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WTA TOUR

PRESS RELEASE

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