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Technological Trailblazers Take their Turn in the Limelight

Minnesota High Tech Association announces finalists for the 13th annual Tekne Awards, to be held Nov. 1 at the Minneapolis Convention Center

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 19, 2012 — From pop-up toasters to Post-it Notes, Minnesota has always been on the forefront of innovation. This is especially true in technology, as companies from all over the state continue to pioneer innovative solutions to meet the ever-changing needs of our state, nation and world. To recognize these companies, the Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA) has announced its forty-four finalists for the 2012 Tekne Awards. These finalists span fifteen categories that recognize the best and brightest in technological innovation, development, commercialization and management in Minnesota.

Presented on Thursday, Nov. 1, at the Minneapolis Convention Center, the Tekne Awards honor those who play a significant role in discovering new technologies that educate, improve lifestyles, and impact the lives and futures of people living in Minnesota and all over the world. The program reinforces Minnesota's place as one of the most competitive and technologically advanced regions in the world.

"Every year, MHTA is honored to showcase some of the most innovative and competitive technology-based companies in the world at the Tekne Awards," said Margaret Anderson Kelliher, president of MHTA. "Thanks to this year's finalists, Minnesota remains at the forefront of cutting-edge technological growth."

The 2012 Tekne Awards program will begin with VIP registration and a reception at 4:30 p.m., followed by general registration and cocktails at 5 p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:45 p.m., with the awards ceremony beginning at 7 p.m. The post-event reception will round out the event at 8:30 p.m. Don Shelby, author, news anchor and reporter, will emcee the event.

To register for the 2012 Tekne Awards program, visit www.tekneawards.org or contact Kathy Marsh at 952-230-4554 or kmarsh@mhta.org.

(more)

Categories and finalists for the 2012 Tekne Awards are:

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AWARD

The Advanced Manufacturing Award honors technological advancement in the manufacturing of materials or chemicals, machinery and equipment, electronics and components, measuring instruments, photonics, optics and lasers. Finalists are: **3M** (Saint Paul), **Seagate Technology** (Bloomington) and **Top Tool Co.** (Blaine).

CLEANTECH & ENERGY AWARD

The Cleantech & Energy Award recognizes organizations that develop environmentally-sound products or solutions that reduce costs, energy consumption, waste or pollution. Examples include but are not limited to: solar or wind power, biofuels, green building supplies, personal transportation or smart grid. Finalists are: **Biovation Holdings Inc.** (Mankato), **SheerWind, Inc**. (Chaska) and **TransUNImission, Inc.** (Burnsville).

COMPUTER HARDWARE & ELECTRONIC DEVICES AWARD

The Computer Hardware & Electronic Devices Award honors innovative development of computer products, equipment or consumer electronic devices. Examples include but are not limited to server and storage devices, mainframes, PCs and memory cards. Finalists are: **Imation Corp.–DataGuard** (Oakdale), **Imation Corp.–RDX Media Secure (Oakdale)** and **Network Instruments, LLC** (Minnetonka).

EDTECH AWARD

The EdTech Award recognizes the development of technologies and innovations that enhance teaching and learning both in and out of the classroom. Finalists are: **eLumen Collaborative** (Minneapolis), **St. Cloud State University** (St. Cloud) and the **University of Minnesota Rochester** (Rochester).

INNOVATIVE COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Innovative Collaboration of the Year Award honors any type of collaboration or partnership that demonstrates leadership, dedication and excellence in delivering an innovation to Minnesota. There must be two or more parties involved with the collaboration. The finalists are: **Blandin Foundation** (Grand Rapids), **Digineer** (Plymouth) and **page10** (Minneapolis).

LIFE SCIENCES AWARD

The Life Sciences Award recognizes innovative development of medical devices, diagnostics or equipment, disease treatment, pharmaceuticals, agriculture or food science. Established company finalists are: **3M** (Saint Paul), **Starkey Hearing Technologies** (Eden Prairie) and **Vital Images, Inc.** (Minnetonka). Small-and-growing company finalists are: **Cardio3 BioSciences** (Rochester), **Circle Biologics, Inc.** (Plymouth) and **OrthoCor Medical** (Minneapolis).

MOBILE & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES AWARD

The Mobile & Communications Technologies Award honors innovation in mobile applications and electronic communication, including but not limited to social media, internet broadcasting, digital data integration, streaming audio/video and highly interactive user interfaces. Finalists are: **MakeMusic, Inc.** (Eden Prairie), the **Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities** (Saint Paul) and **Starkey Hearing Technologies** (Eden Prairie).

ROBOTICS & AUTOMATION AWARD
The Robotics & Automation Award recognizes notable achievements in robotics and automation. Finalists are: **PaR Systems, Inc.** (Shoreview), **ReconRobotics, Inc.** (Edina) and **Robotics Innovation LLC** (Minneapolis).

SOFTWARE AWARD
The Software Award honors companies who show innovative development of applications for business or consumer use. Established company finalists are: **GE Capital Fleet Services** (Eden Prairie), **JAMF Software, LLC** (Minneapolis) and **Open Access Technology International, Inc.** (Minneapolis). Small-and-growing company finalists are: **Code 42 Software, Inc.** (Minneapolis), **Savigent Software, Inc.** (Minnetonka) and **Third Wave Systems, Inc.** (Eden Prairie).

STARTUP AWARD
The Startup Award recognizes an early-stage Minnesota technology company with commercialized products that demonstrates significant potential, creativity and a promising future. The company must be less than three years old, have 1-30 employees and generate revenue. The finalists are: **Sophia Learning, LLC** (Minneapolis) and **SparkWeave, LLC** (Minneapolis).

TECHNOLOGY EXCELLENCE IN A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION AWARD
The Technology Excellence in A Non-Profit Organization Award honors a non-profit organization whose innovative use of technology has allowed or will allow the organization to more effectively deliver on its mission and serve the state of Minnesota and its communities. Finalists are: **GiveMN** (Saint Paul), **MacPhail Center for Music** (Minneapolis) and **The Works** (Bloomington).

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES & CONSULTING AWARD
The Technology Services Award recognizes providers of computer and internet-related services to businesses and consumers, including but not limited to software consulting, disaster recovery, Web design, data input and processing, security, e-commerce services, business services and Web hosting. Established company finalists are: **Digital River, Inc.** (Minnetonka), **PeopleNet** (Minnetonka) and **Thomson Reuters** (Eagan). Small-and-growing company finalists are: **Agosto, Inc.** (Minneapolis), **SWAT Solutions, Inc.** (St. Louis Park) and **Trissential, LLC** (Wayzata).

The 2012 Tekne Awards are made possible by the generous support of its sponsors:
- Platinum: Microsoft; Thomson Reuters; UnitedHealth Group
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About Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA)
MHTA, or the Minnesota High Tech Association, is an innovation and technology association united in fueling Minnesota's prosperity. We help bring together the people of Minnesota's technology ecosystem and lead the charge in directing technology issues to Minnesota's state capitol.   MHTA is the only membership organization that represents Minnesota's entire technology-based economy. MHTA members include organizations of every size − involved in virtually every aspect of technology creation, production, application and education in Minnesota. Find out more online at http://www.mhta.org or follow MHTA on Twitter at http://twitter.com/MHTA.

For more information:

- Information on the Minnesota Tekne Awards – www.tekneawards.org

- Tekne Award Logo – www.tekneawards.org/sites/default/files/Tekne logo grays.jpg

- Information on the Minnesota High Tech Association – www.mhta.org

- Margaret Anderson Kelliher bio and photo – www.mhta.org/about/people/

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