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Minnesota High Tech Association Announces Finalists for Eighth Annual Tekne Awards

The Minnesota Tekne Awards will recognize the state's top technology companies and individuals at November 1st awards ceremony

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 10, 2007 — The Minnesota High Tech Association, in partnership with LifeScience Alley and Minnesota Technology, Inc., today announced finalists for the eighth annual Tekne Awards, a celebration of superior technological innovation and leadership in Minnesota.

The 2007 Tekne Awards finalists represent a distinguished collection of technology companies and individuals that have positively impacted Minnesota's quality of life and helped secure Minnesota's place as one of the most technologically advanced regions across the globe. Awards are separated into categories that recognize the best and brightest in innovation, development, commercialization and management of technology in Minnesota.

"The Tekne Awards have celebrated the growth of Minnesota's technology-based companies for nearly a decade and continue to recognize those who make groundbreaking contributions as technology continues to change and expand," said Kate Rubin, president of MHTA. "With the quantity and quality of award entries increasing significantly again in 2007, this year's award finalists prove that Minnesota is a hotbed for outstanding achievement and innovation in technology."

The 2007 Tekne Awards will be presented on Thursday, Nov. 1 at the Minneapolis Convention Center, beginning with a reception and silent auction at 4:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and the awards ceremony at 7 p.m. The event will be emceed by Paul Douglas of WCCO-TV.

To register for the 2007 Tekne Awards ceremony, visit www.tekneawards.org or contact Lonni Ranallo at (952) 230-4555 or Iranallo@mhta.org.

The 2007 Tekne Award categories and finalists include:

INNOVATIVE COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION IN TEACHING AWARDS

New this year, the Innovative Collaboration of the Year Award honors a business/community/higher-ed/K-12 collaboration or partnership that has demonstrated leadership, dedication and excellence in delivering innovation to Minnesota's technology economy and/or the Minnesota community in general. The Innovation in Teaching Award recognizes innovative classroom use of technology in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education.

- Innovative Collaboration of the Year finalists are **Project Lead the Way**, a collaboration between Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, St. Paul; the Minnesota Department of Education, Roseville; and the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology, Minneapolis; **Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation**, Owatonna; and **University of Minnesota Academic and Corporate Relations Center**, St. Paul.
- Innovation in Teaching finalists are **David Groos**, Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis; **Paul Keeney**, Anoka-Hennepin School District, Andover; and **Mark Westlake**, St. Thomas Academy, Mendota Heights.

GREEN AWARD

The second new award category for 2007, the Green Award, honors businesses that practice environmental awareness/responsibility and incorporate sustainability principles into their business model.

- Finalists are **Andersen Corporation**, Bayport; **Cortec Corporation**, St. Paul; and **Fabcon**, Savage.

TECHNOLOGY COMPANY AWARD

These awards recognize small and growing companies (annual revenues under \$50 million) and established companies (annual revenues of \$50 million+) or divisions within established companies, that exemplify entrepreneurial spirit and promise continued economic growth through technology development and/or applications in the following six categories:

Advanced Manufacturing – Advanced materials and chemicals, machinery and equipment, electronics and components, measuring instruments, photonics, optics and lasers, computer and peripheral equipment.

- Small and growing company finalists are **Aveso, Inc.**, Fridley; **IKONICS Corporation**, Duluth; and **Restaurant Technologies, Inc.**, Eagan.
- Established company finalists are **Emerson Process Management/Rosemount Division**, Chanhassen; **Goodrich Corporation**, Burnsville; and **3M**, St. Paul.

Biotechnology – Agriculture, environmental, food science and pharmaceuticals.

- Small and growing company finalists are **Biothera**, Eagan; **NaturNorth Technologies LLC**, Duluth; and **Newport Laboratories**, Worthington.
- Established company finalists are **Cargill, Inc.**, Minneapolis; **CIMA LABS, Inc.**, Eden Prairie; and **MGI PHARMA, INC.**, Bloomington.

IT-Software & Hardware, Communications and Infrastructure – Software & hardware (web-based software, web 2.0, etc.), networking, communications and wireless equipment and products.

- Small and growing company finalists are **Feed Management Systems**, Brooklyn Center; **SPS Commerce**, Minneapolis; and **Wireless Ronin Technologies, Inc.**, Minnetonka.
- Established company finalists are **Digi International**, Minnetonka; **Lockheed Martin**, Eagan; and **Seagate Technology**, Shakopee.

Medical Technology – Devices, diagnostics and equipment.

- Small and growing company finalists are **CoAxia**, Maple Grove; **CVRx®, Inc.**, Maple Grove; and **Vascular Solutions**, Maple Grove.

- Established company finalists are **Medtronic, Inc.**, Minneapolis (Concerto and Virtuoso Defibrillators); **Medtronic, Inc.**, Minneapolis (Melody™ Transcatheter Pulmonic Valve); **Vital Images**, Minnetonka.

Technology Services – Innovative development and/or delivery of technology services, including consulting services, service providers, software as a service, etc.

- Small and growing company finalists are **Lighthouse1, LLC**, Minnetonka; **PureChoice, Inc.**, Burnsville; and **Swarmcast**, Minneapolis.
- Established company finalists are **Bose ElectroForce® Systems Group**, Eden Prairie; **City of Minneapolis**, Minneapolis; and **PeopleNet**, Chaska.

Technology User – Innovative application of products or services resulting in dramatic business improvement or market advantage.

- Finalists are **Capella University**, Minneapolis; **Ecolab Inc.**, Eagan; and **Honeywell**, Golden Valley.

COMMUNITY CHAMPION AND LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The Community Champion and Leadership Awards honor outstanding individuals who, beyond a specific innovation or achievement, have helped further technology expansion in this state and contributed significantly to Minnesota's community at large.

- Community Champion Award finalists are **Ron Bennett**, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul; **Jim Benson**, Bemidji State University, Bemidji; and **Dale Wahlstrom**, BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota, St. Louis Park.
- Leadership Award finalists are **Dennis Inman and Jeff Seeley**, Cargill, Wayzata; **Chris Killingstad**, Tennant, Minneapolis; **Susan Nestegard**, Ecolab Inc., Eagan.

The 2007 Tekne Awards are made possible by the generous support of its sponsors:

Platinum: Onvoy, Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly; Thomson West *Gold:* 3M; Cargill; Comcast; Ecolab; Grant Thornton; Honeywell; Microsoft; Padilla Speer Beardsley; *Innovation Toast Sponsor:* Robert Half Technology; *Silver:* Digital Solutions; Fish & Richardson, P.C.; KPMG, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi, L.L.P; Unisys; *Media Sponsor:* Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal; *Tekne Silent Auction Education Sponsors – Gold:* ADC, Qwest; *Silver:* Onvoy.

About Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA)

The Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA) accelerates the growth, sustainability and global competitiveness of Minnesota's technology-based economy through public policy advocacy, member collaboration and education, and community outreach. 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. MHTA works in partnership with AeA, which represents Minnesota's technology organizations nationally. Find out more online at www.mhta.org.

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