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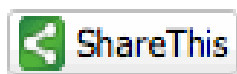


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New Technology Sectors Grow as Minnesota Innovators Continue to Shine



Minnesota High Tech Association announces finalists for the 12th annual Tekne Awards, which will be held Nov. 3 at the Minneapolis Convention Center

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 14, 2011 — Recent growth in Minnesota’s educational and robotic technology sectors emphasize the state’s position as a leader in technological advancements, while other technology-based sectors also remain strong. In recognition of last year’s innovations, the [Minnesota High Tech Association](http://www.mhta.org) (MHTA) announced finalists for the [2011 Tekne Awards](#). Forty-two finalists were named in fourteen categories that recognize the best and brightest in innovation, development, commercialization and management of technology in Minnesota.

Presented on Thursday, Nov. 3, 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 2011 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-Tekne party will round-out the event at 8:30 p.m. Paul Douglas, author, entrepreneur and meteorologist, will emcee the event.

To register for the 2011 Tekne Awards program, visit www.tekneawards.org or contact Kathy Marsh at 952-230-4554 or kmarsh@mhta.org.

Categories and finalists for the 2011 Tekne Awards are:

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AWARD

The Advanced Manufacturing Award is presented to companies that have excelled in the production of advanced materials and chemicals, machinery and equipment, electronics and components, measuring instruments, photonics, optics and lasers, computer and peripheral equipment. Finalists are: **CyberOptics Corporation** (Golden Valley), **IKONICS Corporation** (Duluth) and **Nova-Tech Engineering** (Willmar).

CLEANTECH AWARD

The Cleantech Award recognizes businesses that manufacture environmentally sound products or solutions that reduce costs, inputs, energy consumption, waste or pollution. Products include but are not limited to solar power, wind power, biofuels, green building supplies, personal transportation, the smart grid and mobile applications. Finalists are: **Ecolab Inc.** (St. Paul), **Honeywell International Inc.** (Golden Valley) and **LightingHouseUSA, Inc.** (Plymouth).

COMPUTER HARDWARE & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

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: **Barrier1** (Ramsey), **Global Traffic Technologies** (St. Paul) and **Imation Corp** (Oakdale).

EDUTECH AWARD

The EduTech Award recognizes the development of technologies and innovations that enhance teaching and learning both in and out of the classroom. Finalists are: **Capella University** (Minneapolis), **Naiku, Inc.** (Inver Grove Heights) and **Sophia** (Minneapolis).

INNOVATIVE COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Innovative Collaboration of the Year Award honors a collaboration or partnership that has demonstrated leadership, dedication and excellence in delivering an innovation to Minnesota's technology economy and/or the Minnesota community in general. There must be two or more parties involved with the collaboration. The finalists are: **Maverick Software Consulting Partnership** (Lakeville), **Normandale Community College and Foundation** (Bloomington) and **TIES** (St. Paul).

LIFE SCIENCES AWARD

The Life Sciences Award recognizes companies leading innovation in medical devices, diagnostics or equipment, disease treatment, agriculture, food science and pharmaceuticals. Established company finalists are: **Ecolab, Inc.** (St. Paul), **Minntech Corporation** (Minneapolis) and **Starkey Laboratories, Inc.** (Eden Prairie). Small-and-growing company finalists are: **OrthoCor Medical** (Minneapolis), **Pursuit Vascular, Inc.** (Minnetonka) and **QuickCheck Health** (Excelsior).

MOBILE & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

Finalists in the Mobile & Communications Technologies Award category have shown innovations 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: **Avtex Solutions, Inc.** (Bloomington), **GeaCom, Inc.** (Duluth) and **QONQR, LLC** (Roseville).

SOFTWARE

The Software Award honors companies who show innovative development of applications for business or consumer use. Established company finalists are: **Imation Corp.** (Oakdale), **State of Minnesota - CareerOneStop** (St. Paul) and **Unisys Corporation** (Roseville). Finalists for small-and-growing companies are: **Calabrio, Inc.** (Plymouth), **Insite Software** (Minneapolis) and **Xollai, LLC** (St. Paul).

TECHNOLOGY EXCELLENCE IN A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

The Technology Excellence in A Non-Profit Organization 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: **Asian Media Access** (Minneapolis), **City of Minneapolis** (Minneapolis) and **TIES** (St. Paul).

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 and Web hosting. Established company finalists are: **Digital River, Inc.** (Minnetonka), **Merrill DataSite** (St. Paul) and **Thomson Reuters** (Eagan). Finalists for small-and-growing companies are: **Agosto** (Minneapolis), **Apex Print Technologies** (St. Paul) and **CaSTT, Inc.** (Minneapolis).

TECHNOLOGY USE IN SUSTAINABILITY

The Technology Use in Sustainability Award honors businesses that use green technology to practice environmental awareness and responsibility, and incorporate sustainability principals into their overall business model. Finalists are: **KPMG LLP** (Minneapolis), **Neighborhood Innovations** (Golden Valley) and **Parallel Technologies, Inc.** (Eden Prairie).

The 2011 Tekne Awards are made possible by the generous support of its sponsors:

- Platinum: Thomson Reuters; UnitedHealth Group
- Gold: Grant Thornton; Honeywell; Padilla Speer Beardsley, Inc.
- Media Sponsor: Twin Cities Business magazine
- Silver: Comcast Business Class; Scales Advertising
- Tekne Award Partners: The BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota; Enterprise Minnesota; LifeScience Alley

About Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA)

The Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA) promotes 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 TechAmerica, which represents Minnesota's technology organizations nationally. 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 – http://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 – http://www.tekneawards.org/sites/default/files/MAK_Bio.pdf

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