



Minnesota High Tech Association Honors 14 Recipients at the 2011 Tekne Awards Ceremony

Awards recognize Minnesota leaders for their incredible achievements in advancing technological innovation

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 4, 2011 — The [Minnesota High Tech Association](#) (MHTA) honored more than a dozen Minnesota-based technology and innovation leaders with a 2011 Tekne Award during last night’s ceremony at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The Tekne Awards recognize innovative technology achievements across a range of fields, from manufacturing to sustainable technologies to non-profit organizations.

“The Tekne Awards acknowledge the exceptional progress and incredible innovations developed right here in Minnesota,” said [Margaret Anderson Kelliher](#), president of MHTA. “The 2011 recipients exemplify the growth of Minnesota’s leadership in innovation and technology.”

The MHTA presented 14 [Tekne Awards](#) to the best and brightest in innovation, development, commercialization and management of technology in Minnesota. Three categories included separate awards for small and growing businesses (with annual revenues under \$50 million) and established businesses (with annual revenues of \$50 million or more).

The evening also featured the induction of the fourth class of the Minnesota Science and Technology Hall of Fame, a partnership between MHTA and the Science Museum of Minnesota. This year’s inductees include entrepreneurs, engineers, professors, inventors, researchers and scientists. Created to honor local leaders who have helped to shape Minnesota as a global leader of innovative technologies, the Minnesota Science and Technology Hall of Fame’s newest inducted class has made a lasting impact on a local, national and international scale.

As part of the awards ceremony, the Minnesota-High Tech Foundation (MHTF) also announced the recipients of its annual scholarships. The MHTF awarded scholarships to top undergraduate students that excel in programs geared toward science, technology, engineering and math disciplines (STEM). Recipients included [name] of [city], etc.

The MHTA presented 2011 Tekne Awards to the following recipients:

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AWARD RECIPIENT

The Advanced Manufacturing Award was presented to **Nova-Tech Engineering, LLC**. A robotics company in Willmar, Minn., Nova-Tech leases automated processing equipment to hatcheries in the poultry industry. Nova-Tech products are used in the hatcheries of most of the world’s turkey, chicken and duck producers. The company’s patented Microwave Claw Processor uses microwave technology to isolate and treat the claw-development tissue on a hatchling. Its patented Poultry Services Processor vaccinates and treats the tip of the beak tissue

with high-intensity infrared energy, preventing damaging pecking behavior. Since Nova-Tech products are leased worldwide, superior quality and service is of utmost importance to ensure continuous customer satisfaction, therefore the equipment is designed, fabricated, assembled, shipped, serviced and repaired by its professionals in Willmar, Minn.

CLEANTECH & ENERGY AWARD RECIPIENT

St. Paul-based **Ecolab** received the Cleantech Award. By 2025 the World Bank predicts fresh water demand will exceed supply by 50 percent, meaning we must search for new solutions to water and energy shortages. Ecolab's Global Aquanomic Laundry Program provides clean, white and soft laundry performance at the lowest total cost of ownership for its hotel, lodging and long-term care customers. The program couples a "SMART WASH" process to reduce the water footprint in the laundry operation with low wash temperature cleaning performance. During a year-long pilot in 31 limited and full-service hotel properties, the laundry program ran 97,000 loads of laundry, in 81 different washers for 7.8 million pounds of linen processed. This resulted in 5.5 million gallons of water and 33,000 therms of energy saved.

COMPUTER HARDWARE & ELECTRONIC DEVICES AWARD RECIPIENT

The Computer Hardware & Electronic Devices Award was presented to **Global Traffic Technologies, LLC (GTT)**. Based in St. Paul, Global Traffic Technologies, LLC (GTT) was formed in 2007 when the division was carved out of 3M. GTT's mission is to save lives, save time and improve the environment through traffic management systems that facilitate the interoperability of public safety, transit and traffic management infrastructure. GTT has developed and refined an architecture of adaptable solutions for Transit Signal Priority (TSP) and Emergency Vehicle Preemption (EVP) installed in more than 100,000 intersections around the world. EVP systems grant emergency vehicles green light passage through signalized intersections and TSP systems improve transit operations by granting a transit vehicle an advantage at a signalized intersection either by extending a green light or truncating a red light. GTT's Priority Control Systems are so well-respected that their trade name "Opticom" is generically used to describe the entire product category of traffic signal priority products.

EDUTECH AWARD RECIPIENT

Sophia Learning received the Edutech Award, which recognizes development of technologies and/or innovative use in technology in and out of the classroom to enhance teaching and learning. Minneapolis-based Sophia began with the premise that there are millions of great ideas, methods, lessons and people who can contribute to society's goal of spreading knowledge and making education better and more effective. The website, Sophia.org, has been described as a mashup of Facebook, Wikipedia and YouTube focused solely on education. The online social teaching and learning platform that launched publicly in March of 2011, combines connectivity tools to create a free, credible, education-based, crowd-sourced platform that provides access to learning packets. In the first 90 days after launching in public beta, Sophia had more than 20,000 users from 129 countries at nearly 1,000 education institutions. The online site currently offers more than 1,000 learning packets on a variety of topics that are ranked and rated by the Sophia community.

INNOVATIVE COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT

The Innovative Collaboration of the Year Award was presented to **Maverick Software Consulting** in Lakeville. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU), Maverick Software Consulting, Advance IT Minnesota, Thomson Reuters and Digital River have created a first-of-its-kind academia-meets-corporate America partnership, bringing together top computer science students from campuses across Minnesota with corporations seeking local software development and software testing. The innovative collaboration provides corporate partners with top student talent as a successful, proven option for cost-effective software development and testing services and an experienced workforce after graduation. It also provides students real-world experience working in the field with cutting-edge technology and, typically, a job offer prior to graduation. This collaboration creates a motivated, skilled and productive workforce that sustains and expands Minnesota's technology-based economy.

LIFE SCIENCES AWARD RECIPIENTS

Life Sciences Awards were presented to two companies leading innovation in medical devices, diagnostics or equipment, agriculture, food science and pharmaceuticals.

The Established Company Award went to **Minntech Corporation**, the leader in developing, manufacturing, and marketing medical devices, sterilants and water purification products worldwide. The Minneapolis company first formed the Infection Prevention Control and Chemistries Group (IPCC) in April 2010, with the vision of being the leader in providing infection prevention and control solutions by expanding Minntech's global market leadership position in chemical technologies. One of the innovative solutions it has created is the REVOX Contract Sterilization Services. REVOX offers rapid turnaround room-temperature sterilization for medical, pharmaceutical and consumer products by minimizing pre-conditioning, eliminating post-sterilization dwelling, and allowing heat-sensitive devices to be sterilized without compromising materials compatibility, product quality or integrity.

Minnetonka-based **Pursuit Vascular, Inc.** received the Small and Growing Company Award. Catheter infections rank in the top seven major healthcare challenges. The need for improvement is compelling and urgent. Pursuit Vascular has taken the first step with the ClearGuard HD product designed for hemodialysis catheters. ClearGuard HD uses a unique polymer rod

impregnated with a proprietary combination of antimicrobial agents. When inserted into a catheter, the rod swells and releases the agents to kill infection-causing microorganisms as well as preventing antimicrobial agents from entering the bloodstream. The ClearGuard HD device is expected to save lives and provide substantial healthcare savings.

MOBILE & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES AWARD RECIPIENT

The Mobile & Communication Technologies Award went to **GeaCom, Inc.** Duluth-based GeaCom was founded in 2007 by Mat Johnson who, after years of studying communication theory and working with high technology innovators, recognized a need for an improved method for communication theory as well as communicating across language barriers. Johnson's resulting solution, Phrazer, is a handheld, interactive communication system with a touch screen interface that enables the collection and delivery of critical information. After identifying what language a patient speaks, Phrazer collects his/her information, medical history, symptoms and complaints and then summarizes it into the caregiver's language that can be accessed on the device or through a facility's electronic health records (EHR) system.

SOFTWARE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Software Awards were presented to two companies recognized for innovative development of applications for business or consumer use.

The Established Company Award went to **Imation**, with its roots in 3M's former Data Storage business, the Oakdale-based company has a 60-year legacy of technology leadership. With 88 percent of organizations reporting at least one data breach in 2010, Imation staff dedicated themselves to finding a solution. In February 2011, Imation unveiled the Defender Collection Control Software Suite which enables organizations to manage their removable data storage devices to maximize security, prevent data loss, and minimize risk. The multi-tiered software is a Web-based application that manages security policy controls for users, removable device types, passwords, off-network usage, encryption and device usage. It also provides protection on individual computers by allowing administrators the ability to block files representing risks of data leak or virus/malware.

Calabrio, Inc. was presented the Small and Growing Company Award. Located in Plymouth, Minn., the company has an ambitious goal – to provide the contact center customer service industry with a better option for workforce optimization by eliminating the implementation and ownership challenges for enterprises of all sizes. The all new Calabrio ONE suite, released in February of 2011, features a completely new Web 2.0-based user experience designed to simplify daily use and configurability for dynamic contact centers. Calabrio has sustained growth in excess of 20 percent over the past three years due to its innovation and aggressive sales and marketing efforts as well as establishing relationships with Cisco and Avaya. According to DMG Consulting Group President Donna Fluss, "Calabrio's new user interface is highly innovative and a game changer for the contact center workforce optimization market."

TECHNOLOGY EXCELLENCE IN A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION AWARD RECIPIENT

The **City of Minneapolis** received the Technology Excellence in a Non-Profit Organization Award. Supporting the City of Minneapolis' vision for the future are six goals: A Safe Place to Call Home; Jobs and Economic Vitality; Livable Communities, Healthy Lives; Many People, One Minneapolis; Eco-Focused; and A City That Works. The City of Minneapolis' new Emergency Operations Training Facility/Strategic Information Center (EOTF/SIC) brings technology and information together to make Minneapolis a safer place. At this location, technology, digital data, streaming video and highly interactive interfaces come together in one highly efficient communications center for the city. In August of 2010, Emergency Preparedness in collaboration with the Minneapolis Fire and Police departments opened the EOTF/SIC. Prior to this, each entity served a singular purpose and would only come together during a large scale event.

Technology Services & CONSULTING AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Technology Services Award was presented to two companies for succeeding in innovative development and/or delivery of technology services, including consulting services, service providers and software as a service.

The Established Company recipient was Eagan-based **Thomson Reuters**. Thomson Reuters Checkpoint has been the industry-leader for online information for tax and accounting professionals for more than a decade. Checkpoint blends cutting-edge technology, expert editorial insight, primary source materials, time-saving productivity tools, online learning, and news updates all in an integrated fashion that adds intelligence to what might otherwise be content and software. On June 13, 2011, the latest evolution of Checkpoint was launched. The features include a redesigned user interface and re-factored underlying code as well as new functionality to enhance users' experience. The new features and superior web design will continue to widen the gap between Checkpoint and the competition.

APEX Print Technologies was presented the Small and Growing Company Award. Since its beginning in 1995, St. Paul-based APEX has continued to build market share by listening to both its customers and their patients. Today, healthcare organizations are looking for a product offering that can improve cash flow, decrease billing costs and improve patient satisfaction. APEX has answered the call by creating myEasyView and mySecureBill. By accessing myEasyView, healthcare facilities have the ability to edit documents prior to printing, view an exact PDF replica of the patient statement, easily make Web-based payments over the phone, enroll patients for electronic statement delivery and set-up payment plans. mySecureBill extends these services to the patient through a branded Web portal.

Technology Use IN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD RECIPIENT

The Technology Use in Sustainability Award went to **KPMG LLP**, the audit, tax and advisory services firm, operates from 87 offices with more than 21,000 employees and partners throughout the U.S. The Minneapolis-based company's purpose is to turn knowledge into value for the benefit of clients, people and capital markets. In 2008, KPMG launched its "Living Green" program to support the firm's commitment to reduce the amount of waste it generates,

the volume of natural resources it consumes, and its overall carbon footprint by working closely with its Climate Change & Sustainability (CC&S) Services advisory practice. At the end of 2010, KPMG's Minneapolis office reduced office energy use by 33 percent, solid waste by 48 percent, water consumption by 42 percent, paper by 48 percent, air travel by 17 percent and shipping by 12 percent from a 2007 baseline.

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

Platinum: Google; Thomson Reuters; UnitedHealth Group

Innovation Toast Sponsor: Medtronic

Gold: Ecolab; Grant Thornton; Honeywell; Padilla Speer Beardsley

Media Sponsor: Twin Cities Business magazine

Silver: Comcast Business Class; Microsoft; Starkey

Gold Education: 3M

Silver Education Sponsor: Best Buy

Tekne Award Partners: 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](http://www.tekneawards.org/sites/default/files/Tekne%20logo%20grays.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](http://www.tekneawards.org/sites/default/files/MAK%20Bio.pdf)

###