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Contact: Michelle Zellen

Automation Alley

(248) 457-3200

zellenm@automationalley.com

AUTOMATION ALLEY ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR NINTH ANNUAL AWARDS GALA

Award Winners Announced at Gala on September 25

Troy, Mich., August 17, 2009 - Automation Alley, Southeast Michigan's largest technology business association, announced today the finalists for its Ninth Annual Awards Gala, taking place Friday, September 25 at the Roostertail in Detroit.

Finalists for the Gala represent the leading technology professionals and organizations in the region, including:

CEO of the Year

- Cynthia J. Pasky, Strategic Staffing Solutions (Detroit)
- Dr. Prabhakar Patil, Compact Power, Inc. (Troy)
- Mark Symonds, Plex Systems (Auburn Hills)

Emerging Leader of the Year

- Stephen J. Hyer, president, founder and owner, IGD Solutions (Clarkston)
- Kevin Krason, president and founder, Biznet Internet Solutions (Wixom)
- Bill Wagner, vice president and co-founder, SRT Solutions (Ann Arbor)

Automation Alley Member of the Year

- Grid4 Communications (Troy)
- Hennessey Capital (Huntington Woods)
- Duane Hopkins, CEO, Innovative Corporate Solutions, Inc. (South Lyon)

Emerging Technology Company of the Year

- Hughes Telematics, Inc. (Oakland Township)
- my1HIE, LLC (Bingham Farms)
- NxtGen Emission Controls, Inc. (Wixom)

Technology Company of the Year

- Datamatics Global Services, Inc. (Livonia)
- Grid4 Communications (Troy)
- Online Tech, Inc. (Ann Arbor)

Educational Program of the Year

- Davenport University Executive Master of Business Administration (Warren)
- Genesee Intermediate School District (Flint)
- Michigan Virtual University (Lansing)

Non-Profit of the Year

- Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce (Rochester)

The award for Legend CEO will also be presented during the ceremony. The Legend CEO award recognizes an individual who has made life-long, pivotal contributions that influenced and helped develop Southeast Michigan's technology community. Previous winners include Robert C. Stempel, Charles "Chip" McClure, Gail Torreano, Richard E. Dauch, Larry Yost, L. Brooks Patterson, J.T. Battenberg III, and Rajendra Vatikuti.

In addition, Automation Alley's 10th anniversary will be celebrated, along with its many accomplishments and successes.

"Automation Alley is proud to recognize and honor those who have made, and continue to make, a significant impact in the technology community," said Executive Director Ken Rogers. "Each exemplifies the outstanding business talent found here in Southeast Michigan."

The winners will be announced on Friday, September 25 at the Ninth Annual Awards Gala. Sponsorships are currently available; tickets for the black tie event are \$200 for members and \$400 for non-members. Event sponsors include *Crain's Detroit Business*, Eisbrenner Public Relations, the Detroit Regional Chamber and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. For additional information, please contact the Resource Center at (800) 427-5100 or info@automationalley.com.

About Automation Alley

Automation Alley is a technology business association driving the growth and image of Southeast Michigan's economy through a collaborative culture that focuses on workforce and business development initiatives.

Since its founding in 1999, Automation Alley has expanded to include more than 1,000 businesses, educational institutions and government entities, the City of Detroit covering and an eight county area. Automation Alley promotes regional prosperity through business attraction services, exporting assistance, workforce development and technology acceleration.

For additional information, visit www.automationalley.com