



News Release

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Alabama, Florida Firms Hailed as National Contractors of the Year During National Small Business Week

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Small Businesses, Corporate Leaders and Government Officials Honored

WASHINGTON – Two small business contractors, one from Alabama and the other from Florida, were today named the National Prime Contractor of the Year and National Subcontractor of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration at a breakfast ceremony held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Washington, D.C. as part of **National Small Business Week**.

The *Small Business Prime Contractor* and *Small Business Subcontractor of the Year* awards honor small businesses that have provided the government and industry with outstanding goods and services either as prime contractors or as subcontractors. The recipients are:

- **Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year**, A.R. (Rey) Almodóvar, cofounder and chief executive officer of Intuitive Research and Technology Corp. of Huntsville, AL. This engineering firm provides management, technical and engineering services to the Department of Defense and to commercial industry. The small disadvantaged and 8(a)-certified business has contracts ranging from small 8(a) contracts to contracts in excess of \$140 million with multiple subcontractors.
- **Small Business Subcontractor of the Year**, Susan Englander, president of EEI Manufacturing Services of Clearwater, FL. EEI, an 8(a) and HUBZone-certified firm, manufactures card assemblies and provides system integration for aerospace and ground support instrumentation, communications and simulation. It grew from a two-employee firm with \$700,000 in gross sales annually to more than \$7 million in revenues and 26 employees.

“Helping small businesses get their fair share of federal contracts is one of the most important responsibilities of the SBA,” said Administrator Karen G. Mills. “For a small company, these contracts can be that critical next step for establishing themselves in the marketplace, growing their businesses and creating jobs. And, at the same time, our federal agencies get the benefit of working with top-notch, creative and dedicated companies. It’s a win-win for small business and the taxpayers.

“Today, we celebrate the outstanding achievements and endurance of small businesses, corporate leaders and government officials who are making significant contributions to the small business community and the nation’s economy despite the challenging economic times we face,” continued Administrator Mills.

The luncheon was sponsored by Raytheon.

Small business owners, corporate leaders, government officials and volunteers from across the country are in Washington, D.C. for the two-day conference to be honored during five major award events for their achievements as America's top entrepreneurs. The contracting awards recognize these businesses and organizations for their commitment to providing contracting and subcontracting opportunities to small, women-owned and small disadvantaged businesses.

Other federal contracting awards included:

Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Excellence, recognizing large prime contractors that have excelled in their use of small businesses as suppliers and subcontractors. The recipients are:

- Jeff Wenaas, president and CEO, Hensel Phelps Construction Co. of Greeley, CO; (Construction Category).
- Dr. Sam Aronson, director, Brookhaven Science Associates, Brookhaven National Laboratory of Upton, NY; (Research & Development Category).
- Randy Lycans, vice president, Jacobs Technology & ESTS Group General Manager of Huntsville, AL; (Services Category)
- Gloria D. Mencer, program manager, Socioeconomic Programs Office, B&W Technical Services Y-12, LLC of Oak Ridge, TN; (Manufacturing Category).

Frances Perkins Vanguard Award, honoring government and industry for excellence in the use of women-owned small businesses as prime contractors and subcontractors.

The recipient is:

- William Thornton III, manager of Procurement Operations, BWXT LLC Y-12, Y-12 National Security Complex of Oak Ridge, TN.

Surety Bond Award, honoring a surety company for the support it provides to small contractors who need help securing bid and performance bonds. The recipients are:

- Bill King, President and Bob Cave, executive VP and chief underwriting officer, SureTec Insurance Company of Houston, TX.

Small Business Week featured a series of forums on Energy (Going Green), Business Financing and Social Media, designed to help entrepreneurs with current, real-world issues that impact their businesses. There was also a townhall forum to discuss small business concerns.

For additional details on Small Business Week 2009, including a full schedule of events and information on all award winners, visit <http://www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com/>.

The U.S. Small Business Administration thanks the cosponsors of National Small Business Week and related events: SCORE, Sam's Club, Symantec Corporation, Ford, Raytheon, Administaff, Visa, Sage, IBM, HP, Trend Micro, Lockheed Martin, Verio, Moran Media Group, D&B, Association of Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC), National Association of Development Companies (NADCO), National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders (NAGGL), National Small Business Association (NSBA), Small Business Entrepreneurship Council (SBEC), Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), and National Association for the Self-Employed (NASE)

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