

For Immediate Release

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## **EDPA Announces 2015 Alabama Innovation Awards Winners**

*Winners in five categories will be recognized at the Alabama Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference on Sept. 2*

Birmingham, AL – August 10, 2015 – Alabama Launchpad, a program of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, has unveiled the winners for the 2015 Alabama Innovation Awards, an annual recognition of the state’s top innovators in the areas of job creation and innovation that solves a local or global need.

All of this year’s honorees will be recognized at the Alabama Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference on Sept. 2 from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the BJCC East Ballroom A in Birmingham. This premier event celebrates and recognizes the vital role entrepreneurs, startups and innovators contribute to Alabama’s economy and new job growth. For more information, please visit [alabamalaunchpad.com/awards/](http://alabamalaunchpad.com/awards/).

“We were impressed by the credentials of this year’s nominations across all categories,” said Angela Wier, vice president of EDPA. “The innovators exemplify outstanding achievement, and we’re looking forward to showcasing the winners and their accomplishments at this year’s Alabama Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference. The awards are not just a celebration for accomplishment, but they also help EDPA discover companies that contribute to the diversification of the economy and the creation of high-wage careers for Alabamians.” The winners are as follows:

### **Corporate Innovator of the Year, large company (50+ employees)**

- Integrated Medical Systems International, Inc., Birmingham, is recognized by the healthcare industry as the leader for instrument-ready solutions that ensure patient safety and surgeon satisfaction.

### **Corporate Innovator of the Year, small company (1-50 employees)**

- Emergency CallWorks, Inc., Birmingham, is a leading provider of Next Generation 9-1-1 and emergency incident management software for the public safety industry.

### **Outstanding Achievement in Innovative Manufacturing**

- To Your Health Sprouted Flour Co., Fitzpatrick, Bullock County, is the world's leader in sprouted organic flour that has grown from sprouting in mason jars to having specially designed equipment to handle 70,000 pounds of production a week.

#### **Outstanding Public-Private Partnership for Innovation**

- City of Montgomery & Infinitus Energy, Montgomery, has partnered to revolutionize and transform recycling in the city through Infinitus Energy's advanced waste processing system.

#### **Lifetime Achievement in Innovation**

- Gary York, Birmingham, is one of Alabama's most respected serial entrepreneurs with three successful technology companies under his belt. His innovative solutions have enhanced routine outpatient healthcare, increased physician productivity and improved hospital profitability.

Award nominations were solicited from across the state. Award recipients were selected by a panel of judges under the chairmanship of Tom Stanton, chairman and CEO of ADTRAN. Members of the panel include: Billy Harbert, CEO of BL Harbert International; Harris Morrisette, president of China Doll Rice & Dixie Lily; Yolanda Sullivan, CEO of YWCA of Central Alabama; Art Tipton, president and CEO of Southern Research; and Neill S. Wright, executive vice president of Liberty Bank.

"We received an outstanding group of nominations this year. While selecting the winners was difficult, it was inspiring to see so many examples of innovation in Alabama," Stanton said. "We are hopeful that by recognizing successful innovators through this awards program, we will inspire others with an entrepreneurial spirit to make a difference in our state."

***About the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama:*** Now in its 25th year, the non-profit Partnership represents the private sector's contribution to economic development in Alabama. Fully funded by more than 70 leading companies invested in the state's long-term economic success, EDPA provides leadership and services that recruit new businesses to the state, retain existing businesses and renew Alabama's economy by encouraging innovation both within existing industries and through the commercialization of new technologies.

[www.edpa.org](http://www.edpa.org)

***About Alabama Launchpad:*** Alabama Launchpad helps high growth companies start, stay and grow in Alabama while supporting, advocating and recognizing entrepreneurship statewide.

[www.alabamalaunchpad.com](http://www.alabamalaunchpad.com)