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NorTech Honors 28 Companies

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NorTech recently named 28 Northeast Ohio companies as winners of this year's Innovation Awards.

The Innovation Awards are given to companies and people who develop innovative ways to add value to their business or to carry out the company's mission. The winners were recognized at a dinner on Monday, May 6. The 10-year-old program "recognizes the people who create and the organizations that encourage creativity," according to NorTech.

This year's winners were:

- AlphaMicron Inc., which has developed technology to instantaneously adjust the tint or color of visors used for helmet-mounted displays by military pilots.
- Cleveland Medical Devices Inc., which produces a two-channel wireless data acquisition system used to monitor measurements on small laboratory animals. The system is called RatPaak.
- Ferro Corp., a manufacturer of performance materials. One of its products, called Cool Colors, is used by the military and on vinyl siding to reflect damaging pigments.
- Five Star Technologies, which has developed controlled flow cavitation process equipment that is used in the development and manufacture of nano-sized materials for the pharmaceutical industry.
- Flashline Inc., which produces a software application, called Flashline Component Manager, that manages a company's existing software components and related software assets, making it easier to recycle these assets to build new applications.
- GE Lighting, which recently introduced light bulbs that cast a whiter glow than typical bulbs that cast a yellow glow. GE Lighting's new light bulb is called Reveal bulb.
- Glass Equipment Development Inc. and 3M. 3M invented a line of products, Accentrim, that uses optical film to give the look of beveled or v-groove glass without having to bevel the glass. GED produced a patent-pending way to apply the Accentrim products that integrated with other production machinery and software.
- Glennan Microsystems Initiative, FiberLead Inc. and NineSigma, together they developed MUSiC, a process that enables companies to fabricate microdevices in silicon carbide for applications in harsh environments.
- Goodyear Engineered Products, which developed a product that helps reduce belt failure in power transmissions by ensuring proper belt tension. The TensionRite Gauge is an adhesive-backed gauge that comes packed with specific Goodyear banded v-belts to help insure they are installed with the proper tension.

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- GroundScape Technologies LLC, which has developed a process to permanently color shredded rubber derived from scrap tires. It is marketing GroundScape Kids, a loose fill playground safety surface, and GroundScape, an alternative landscaping mulch.
- Invacare Corp., which uses its SureStep technology to develop a power wheelchair that combines the accessibility and obstacle-handling ability of a front-wheel drive chair with the stability and maneuverability of a mid-wheel drive power wheel chair.
- Keithley Instruments Inc.. Electronic industries need efficient test solutions that help them ensure reliable products, improve yields and lower costs. Keithley has developed the Model 6458, which satisfies the need for quick and economical low current measurements in research and development and production testing for many industries.
- Liquid Crystal Institute at Kent State University and MicroDiagnosis Inc., which have developed a technique that uses liquid crystals to detect disease-causing agents, or pathogens.
- Leading Lady Companies, which has created a bra for women who suffer from arthritis and have limited hand or upper-body dexterity.
- The Lubrizol Corp., which produces an emulsified fuel, called PuriNOx, for diesel engines. The fuel reduces emissions that pollute the environment.
- Manco Inc., a Henkel Group Co., which develops an invisible tape dispenser that uses Micro-Suction technology to be mounted on any flat surface.
- NASA Glenn Research Center, together with the U.S. Department of Defense and eight airframe and engine manufacturers have created a simulation system that helps aircraft engine designers detect critical design issues early in the production process. The Numerical Propulsion System Simulation allows aircraft engine designers to greatly reduce the amount of time to simulate how an engine will perform over its lifetime.
- NASA Glenn Research Center and QSS Group Inc., which have developed a process called Ecoceramics, which uses wood or sawdust to create ceramic materials that have complex shapes in a low-cost and environmentally friendly manner.
- NineSigma Inc., which created an online Managed Exchange to help the private sector leverage the capabilities of the Internet to find solutions to its science and technology needs.
- Nordson Corp. has developed a process that allows medium-density fiberboard users to finish their products by applying powder coatings instead of thermo-foil.
- Omnova Solutions Inc., which has created an environmentally friendly alternative to chemicals typically used in floor polish. Its technology, called PolyFox, uses short fluorine chains, rather than long fluorine chains, and retains the needed performance characteristics.
- Parker Hannifin Corp. In all computers, the cooling rate is the major limiting factor in performance. Parker Hannifin has developed a Macrospray Liquid Spray Cooling Plate that enables the Cray supercomputer to remove heat from each integrated circuit very quickly, enabling the computer's components to cool at twice the rate than with other spray plates.
- QuikCAT Technologies, which has products, iNet, Optimizer, and CATNIP, that use content-sensitive compression and smart data routing schemes to deliver multimedia content and computer files.
- Privacy Technologies Inc., a subsidiary of Royal Appliance Manufacturing Co., is trying to solve one of the most annoying problems of all, telemarketers. The TeleZapper helps eliminate those annoying computer-dialed telemarketing phone calls that we all enjoy receiving during dinner.
- Superior Tool Co., has created the Drainstick, a light-weight tool that removes hair and goop between the drain and the end of the trap.

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- Theken Surgical, producer of the Tether cervical fusion plate system, which allows surgeons to choose between a flexible and rigid cervical fusion plate system during the operation by simply changing their choice of screws.
- Viztec and Kent State University, which is manufacturing plastic pixels that enable the creation of flexible plastic Liquid Crystal Displays for cell phones, watches, PDAs and other handheld devices.
- Western Enterprises, a Scott Fetzer Company, that has developed the XR portable medical oxygen system, which is an all-in-one design that combines the regulator, oxygen cylinder, cylinder wrench and washer.

The names of actual companies and products mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners.

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