



Tech firms earn honors

TechColumbus recognizes local companies, leaders

Monday, January 21, 2008 2:56 AM

BY [AMY SAUNDERS](#)

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The technological achievements of local companies and their leaders were recognized in last week's TopCAT awards, presented by TechColumbus.

Bob Irwin, in his first year as president and CEO of Sterling Commerce, was named executive of the year among companies with 50 or more employees. The Dublin software and computer services company, a subsidiary of AT&T Inc., expects to generate \$2 billion in revenue in the next five years.

William Dawson, president and CEO of fuel-cell developer NexTech Materials, was named executive of the year among companies with fewer than 50 employees.

Battelle received two awards honoring the company's solutions for purifying water contaminated by acid mine drainage. Research director Bruce F. Monzyk received the Green Innovation honor, while senior research scientist F. Michael von Fahnestock was presented the award for Outstanding Technology Team.

TechColumbus, a business incubator for local technology companies, also gave the following awards:

- Ben Blanquera, director of applications delivery at Progressive Medical, was recognized for Outstanding Service (50 or more employees).
- Jeanne Gokcen, was named Outstanding Woman in Technology as president and founder of FutureCom Technologies Inc., which develops speech-recognition software.
- Hollie Harper of Phylogeny, a company that provides services for genomic research, was recognized for Outstanding Service (fewer than 50 employees).
- John Hrusovsky, CEO of GroundWork Group, was recognized for Innovation in Nonprofit Service Delivery. The company provides technology support to nonprofit organizations.

- Ravi Kunduru, executive vice president of IT-provider Ventech Solutions Inc., was honored in the Minority Owned Enterprise category.
- Wayne Poll, founder of Minimally Invasive Devices, was named Inventor of the Year for developing Clear-VU, a device that automates the cleaning of laparoscopes.
- Joseph M. Sanda, CEO and president of Astute Solutions, was recognized for Outstanding Product (50 or more employees). The company develops customer-relations software.
- Pam Springer, CEO of Web services provider ECNext, was recognized for Outstanding Product (fewer than 50 employees.)
- Doug Stewart, CEO of Aircraft Logs, received the Outstanding Startup Business honor. The company developed a system that simplifies aircraft recordkeeping.

The awards were presented in ceremonies Thursday evening.

asaunders@dispatch.com