



SIX AREA COMPANIES CITED FOR LEADERSHIP IN THE REGION'S NEW ECONOMY

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership and KPMG LLP Present 2nd Annual 'Innovate' Awards

Niagara Falls, NY – Jan. 28, 2010 – Corporate innovation was rewarded today as the Buffalo Niagara Partnership and KPMG LLP handed out 2010 'Innovate' awards to six local companies.

Honorees were selected from five target industry clusters for their leadership in the new economy. The winners include: Northrop Grumman – Advanced Manufacturing; Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc. – Agri-Business; Independent Health – Life Sciences; ROAR Logistics – Logistics, and Cannon Design – Professional Services.

Patrick Lango, of White Cow Dairy, was singled out for individual business innovation.

“These are all companies that are finding ways to excel and stand out despite economic conditions and competitive pressures,” said Andrew J. Rudnick, president and chief executive officer, Buffalo Niagara Partnership. “They are terrific examples of how to harness the power of innovation to benefit themselves and their communities.”

Michael Ohlweiler, partner, KPMG LLP, said the winning companies and their employees should be proud of their achievements.

“The field of finalists was very strong and exhibited significant achievements. They are living and breathing proof that the Western New York economy can change and grow,” Ohlweiler said.

The Innovate awards, presented today during a luncheon ceremony at the Conference Center Niagara Falls, recognized local companies for growth, innovation and investment in the regional economy.

The event featured a keynote address by Scott Noteboom, Yahoo! Senior Director of Data Center Engineering and Operations. The program also included macro- and micro-workshops how to use innovation to engage and invigorate employees, increase market share and spur growth.

Session leaders included: David P. Flynn, Partner, Phillips Lytle LLP; Gary Simon, The Center for Industrial Effectiveness; Marsha Henderson, Vice President for External Affairs, University at Buffalo; David Reading, Vice President, Sustainability, HSBC Bank; Kathleen Cartus, Principal and Director of Human Resources, Cannon Design; Paul E. Buckley, President, Applied Sciences Group, Inc.; and Jim Walters, Marketing Manager, Solar Liberty.

Nearly 300 executives and staffers, representing more than 90 regional businesses took part in the 2nd annual 'Innovate' event.



ABOUT THE BUFFALO NIAGARA PARTNERSHIP

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership includes nearly 2,500 employer members, working for improved business competitiveness and expanded economic activity in the region. The Partnership advocates, locally, and in Albany, and Washington, D.C., for policies and resources to increase private sector investment and jobs

The Partnership also offers programs and services to its members to increase their chances for business success.

ABOUT KPMG LLP

KPMG LLP operates three offices across Upstate New York, including a location in Fountain Plaza in downtown Buffalo, combining small-town accessibility with big-city vigor. The Upstate trio provides a large platform for the growth of our professionals, allowing them to develop their skills and experience a wide range of clients.

The local office is a member of KPMG's global network of professional firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services, which includes 140,000 professionals in 146 countries worldwide.

###