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Southeast Area Businesses are Growing and Enjoying the Spotlight!

Twenty-one Southeast Michigan area companies will be recognized on April 28th when they receive the 2011 Michigan 50 Companies to Watch Award at the seventh annual Michigan Celebrates Small Business event in Lansing.

More music, less work is Livio Radio's mantra. A rising star in the consumer electronics arena and a 2011 Michigan 50 Companies to Watch award recipient. The company makes electronic devices that enable people to access Internet radio without a computer or phone.

Founder Jake Sigal, a third-generation entrepreneur, launched the company in 2008 as Myine Electronics with a focus on designing products that operate quickly without complicated menus. In 2010, the company rebranded in as Livio (a merger of the words "living room" and "radio").

"Our growth is a result of the wave of digital music complementing traditional broadcast and satellite radio," commented Jake. "Our style of creating products to play 'more music with less work' helped us stay ahead of this curve. It's an honor to be recognized for doing things differently."

Livio Radio is one of numerous companies that have been recognized as a Michigan 50 Company to Watch in the Southeast area in the past years.

Standard Component Inc. (SCI) received the Michigan 50 Companies to Watch award in 2010. Last year the company experienced a 101% growth in revenue and projects a 20% increase in 2011. In addition, SCI expects to increase the number of hires by 15.1% in the coming year.

Chief Executive Officer, James Wilkins attributes a portion of their growth to receiving the award. "By being named one of the Michigan 50, SCI received some very valuable publicity," commented James. "We also use it as a marketing tool to demonstrate that we are head and shoulders above our competitors."

There are other Lansing based companies that will be recognized as a Michigan 50 Company to Watch on April 28th.

- Computerized Facility Integration LLC, Southfield based company specializing in information technology
- Diversified Industrial Staffing, Troy based company specializing in staffing services
- Grand River Inc., Ann Arbor based company specializing in interactive services
- HESCO, Warren based company specializing in water treatment services
- Hygieia Inc., Ann Arbor based company specializing in guidance medical devices
- IMAGE ONE, Oak Park based company specializing in provides printer equipment and maintenance
- Leon Speakers Inc., Ann Arbor based company specializing in manufacturing audio speakers

- Livio Radio, Ferndale based company specializing in manufacturing Internet radio devices
- Marketplace Homes, Plymouth based company specializing in residential real estate sales
- My Insurance Expert, Troy based company specializing in insurance brokerage
- NOVO Motor Acoustic Systems, Warren based company specializing in manufacturing vehicle components
- Relume Technologies Inc., Oxford, manufactures LED lighting
- Running Fit Inc., Ann Arbor based company specializing in running gear retail and events production
- Sakti3, Ann Arbor based company specializing in manufacturing batteries
- Shelving Inc., Auburn Hills based company specializing in storage products
- SRT Solutions, Ann Arbor based company specializing in computer systems design
- Translume Inc., Ann Arbor based company specializing in glass micromachining
- TransPharm Preclinical Solutions, Jackson based company specializing in scientific R&D services
- Underground Printing, Ann Arbor based company specializing in design services
- Unified Business Technologies Inc., Troy based company specializing in IT staffing, architecture and engineering services
- Wellco, Royal Oak based company specializing in corporate wellness consulting

These companies and many others have enjoyed growing their business in Michigan. Fred Carlero, president of EnovateIT and a 2009 Michigan 50 Companies to Watch award recipient is passionate about Michigan.

“The State of Michigan has a fantastic environment for conducting business. With an abundance of talented suppliers and an experienced labor pool, Enovate has tapped into these resources to fuel our explosive growth.” He continued, “The key to success for Enovate, or any company, is finding ways to maximize the capabilities and resilience of the companies and people of Michigan, while at the same time being willing to reinvent themselves to serve growing markets like healthcare manufacturing.”

In addition to the Michigan 50 Companies to Watch, there are many other awards being presented at Michigan Celebrates Small Business on April 28th. The U.S. Small Business Administration of Michigan presents their small business and champion awards. The Main Street USA, Government Contracting and Innovation Awards are also presented during the awards dinner. The other award recipients from Southeast Michigan are:

- **Michigan Small Business Person of the Year**
Michael J. Uckele, CEO and President, Uckele Health and Nutrition, Blissfield
- **Michigan and Midwest Region Small Business Exporter of the Year**
Darryl J. Barlett, Vice President & General Manager, k-Space Associates, Inc, Dexter
- **Michigan and Midwest Region Minority Small Business Champion**
Cynthia A. Grubbs, Small Business Liaison, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Novi
- **Women in Business Champion**

Michelle A. Richards, Executive Director, Center for Empowerment & Economic Development, Ann Arbor

- **Small Business Journalist of the Year**
Michael F. Carmichael, Online Editor & Contributing Writer, Corp! Magazine, Warren
- **Michigan Small Business Counselors of the Year**
Lorne Greenwood, SCORE Counselor, SCORE Chapter 18, Detroit and
Lola Are', Center Director, Oakland County Business Center Michigan SBTDC,
Waterford

About Michigan Celebrates Small Business (MCSB)

Five founders that support and celebrate entrepreneurialism in Michigan banded together in 2005 to create Michigan Celebrates Small Business, the state's premier awards ceremony for entrepreneurs and small business leaders. The event's founders are the U.S. Small Business Administration – Michigan, the Small Business Association of Michigan, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center and the Edward Lowe Foundation.

Underwriters for this year's Michigan Celebrates Small Business event are PNC, Clark Hill PLC, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Comcast Business Class, DTE Energy Foundation, the Michigan Certified Development Corporation, Accident Fund Insurance Company of America and Dynamic Edge Inc.

Media partners for Michigan Celebrates Small Business are MiBiz, Crain's Detroit Business, Upper Peninsula Business Today, the Traverse City Business News, Michigan Radio, WCMU Radio, Mitechnews.com, WWJ Newsradio 950 and the Greater Lansing Business Monthly.

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