

Third Sun Solar Wins TechGROWTH Innovation Award

Athens Ohio Firm Recognized for Green Innovation, Leadership

ATHENS, OHIO (March 18, 2013)—TechGROWTH Ohio has announced the winners of its first Innovation Awards.

Geoff and Michelle Greenfield of Third Sun Solar, an Athens-based solar energy design and build firm, were announced as winners of the Green Innovation Award at a gala held on Tuesday, March 12 in the Ohio University Baker Center Ballroom.

“It is an honor to be recognized in this way by TechGROWTH Ohio,” said Michelle Greenfield, Third Sun Solar CEO. “We were quite surprised—and of course delighted—when our names were announced. The others nominated for the award are very strong innovators; we were very proud just to be announced as a finalist, and to be included among such innovative individuals and companies. We will honor them, and this award, by continuing to pursue innovation in clean solar power technology and to continue our mission of accelerating the growth of clean solar energy.”

The Green Innovation Award guidelines include a demonstrated environmentally significant impact through the implementation of new and innovative technologies, products or processes. In addition to the Greenfields and Third Sun Solar, finalists included Dave Bayless, Ben Stuart and Jesus Pagan of ECO2Capture, Inc.; Brett Bringardner of Corvus Recycling LLC/Libriloop; Gerardine G. Botte of Ohio University; Roger Wilkens of the Center for the Creation of Cooperation; Todd Hawkins of Tesla NanoCoating Inc.; and William T. Beale of Beale Innovations.

This year, forty-four individuals vied for awards in six categories: Green Innovation, Social Innovation, Outstanding Faculty and Student Innovations, Outstanding Woman in Innovation, and the 2012 Entrepreneur of the Year. External evaluators, most entirely

unaffiliated with the region, selected finalists from a wide pool of nominees.

“Some competitors have served the region with a lifetime of leadership and entrepreneurial thought and action; some spent years honing processes and prototypes; still others are relative newcomers bringing fresh ideas and products to swell the local ranks of peers-in-innovation. All are already deservedly recognized in multiple spheres. We celebrate the success of all, in an event which will bring special recognition to several among them,” TechGROWTH Ohio stated in a news release.

In addition to individual and institutional entrepreneurial success, the event celebrates the fifth anniversary of TechGROWTH Ohio, a partnership of Ohio University and regional entities providing professional business services, competitive grants and investment, and access to follow-on capital for regional technology-based startups. TechGROWTH Ohio is sponsored by the Ohio Third Frontier, Ohio University and WesBanco, Inc., and administered through the university's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs. As a part of a strong regional entrepreneurial ecosystem, TechGROWTH joins with its regionally-engaged sponsors Bricker & Eckler, WesBanco, ED MAP at this gala in celebrating with multiple regional programs and institutions that enable university and regional technology commercialization and small business incubation. Support for this year's event was also provided by the Ohio University Vice President for Research and Creative Activity, Russ College of Engineering and Technology and Scripps College of Communication.

About Third Sun Solar

Third Sun Solar is at the forefront of an emerging Ohio clean energy industry—a growing resource for 21st-century jobs. For more than a decade, the company has custom designed and installed more than 350 solar energy systems for commercial, institutional, government, and residential customers across the Midwest. Third Sun Solar

employs a team of NABCEP-certified solar energy installers along with system designers, financial analysts, grant specialists, and support staff—all focused on making it easy for customers to go solar. From start to finish, the company combines financial and management experience, highly trained installation crews, privileged supply agreements with leading equipment suppliers, a network of professional services partners, and advanced internal systems to deliver a smooth transition to clean solar energy at any scale.

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Accelerating the shift to clean energy

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