

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Prairie Quest, Inc. Honored as One of the 2010 Indiana Companies to Watch

Fort Wayne, IN – Prairie Quest, Inc. has been recognized as one of the 2010 Indiana Companies to Watch, an awards program presented by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, its Small Business Development Center network, Purdue University and the Edward Lowe Foundation.

Forty-one companies from Indiana will be honored as outstanding second-stage companies during the third annual Indiana Companies to Watch awards program, held on Aug. 26 in Indianapolis.

Companies to Watch is an awards program that celebrates Indiana privately-held second-stage companies—typically those businesses that are past the startup phase, are considered to be established, and face issues of growth, not survival. Companies honored range from traditional businesses involved in manufacturing, financial services and retail trade to high-tech companies working in the life sciences, information technology, telecommunications, and aerospace industries.



About Prairie Quest

Prairie Quest is an award winning professional services firm with an impressive track record of public and private sector contracts. With a wealth of experience and expertise, Prairie Quest provides innovative, cost-effective solutions in project management, acquisition management, advisory and assistance services, business process analysis, and technology services. Prairie Quest currently provides strategic planning and military marketing support to the Army, acquisition management to the Navy, Warrior in Transition (WTU) support to National Guard, program management support to the Air Force, and strategic analysis support to the Census Bureau as a

federal contractor. Prairie Quest has been a vendor to the states of Indiana and Michigan since 2005.

Prairie Quest was honored with this award based on their ability to readily support current operations and functions. As an organization, they obtained 66% growth over 2009. Based on current organization forecasts, Prairie Quest expects to see a similar growth pattern in 2010.

About Indiana Companies to Watch

Companies to Watch firms must employ between six and 150 full-time equivalent employees, have between \$750,000 and \$100 million in annual revenue or working capital in place, and demonstrate the intent and capacity to grow based on employee or sales growth, exceptional entrepreneurial leadership, sustainable competitive advantage or other notable strengths.

This year more than 300 Indiana companies were nominated for the Companies to Watch program. The number of applicants was narrowed to 141 businesses. From that pool, 100 finalists were selected, and 41 companies emerged to become the 2010 Indiana Companies to Watch.

This awards program is unique because of its focus on second-stage companies. The impact of these companies on Indiana's economy is immense. During 2006-2008 Indiana's resident companies averaged more than 33,000 second-stage establishments according to YourEconomy.org, an online resource of the Edward Lowe Foundation. Those second-stage companies employed more than 784,000 workers.

Looking at the contributions of these companies from a different perspective, from 2006-2008 only 9.5 percent of Indiana's resident establishments were in the second-stage category, however, they generated nearly 37.1 percent of net new jobs.

Indiana Companies to Watch is a collaboration among the Indiana Economic Development Corp., through its Small Business Development Center Network, Purdue University and the Edward Lowe Foundation.

This program would not be possible without the generous support of Premier Capital Corporation as well as Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Katz, Sapper & Miller, KeyBank and Ivy Tech Community College. The program is also supported by media sponsors BizVoice magazine and Inside Indiana Business.

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