



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 17, 2008

CONTACT: Cindy Anderson
850.623.0174

New and Existing Businesses Recognized at Industry Appreciation Week Luncheon
TEAM Santa Rosa hosts event to say "thank you" to local business community.

MILTON, FL – A mixture of well-established and emerging companies held the spotlight today at the Santa Rosa County Auditorium during the Industry Appreciation Week luncheon, hosted by TEAM Santa Rosa Economic Development Council, Inc. Eight local businesses, in three categories, were recognized for their contributions over the last year to the overall success and growth of the local economy.

Sponsored by Workforce Escarosa, this year's luncheon featured a fish fry and shrimp boil by "local chefs" Sheriff Wendell Hall and Commissioner Tom Stewart and refreshments provided by the Buffalo Rock Company. Musical entertainment was provided by Gulf Power Company employees Cliff Krut, John Hutchinson and Lee Robinson who, together, make up the band Category 4.

For the recognition portion of the luncheon, the three categories for which businesses were nominated included: Expanding Business, Emerging Export Industry and New Business.

In the expansion category, five existing businesses that have demonstrated sustained growth were named. They are:

- AeroVironment, Inc., a California-based company internationally known for its development of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and efficient energy-based technology, has established a training division for its UAS that is thriving in Navarre.
- Clearwire, a provider of fast, portable and reliable wireless high-speed Internet service, is currently growing its roster from 250 employees to more than 400 positions to support its wireless broadband technical service center located in Milton.
- The Studer Group, named by the Society of Human Resource Management as one of the 50 Best Small & Medium Companies to Work for in America, continues to garner national recognition for its insightful techniques and strategies that have helped hundreds of health care organizations worldwide to attain and sustain service and operations excellence.

- more -

PAGE TWO

- The Ropella Group is a leading executive search and consulting firm that will soon open its new offices in the Santa Rosa Industrial Park.
- AppRiver, Inc. a leading provider of email security solutions, recently received the Red Herring 100 Award, a selection as one of the 100 most innovative private technology companies based in North America.

Two companies recently welcomed into the local business community, were recognized in the New Business category:

- MTI Specialty Silicones designs, develops and manufactures custom-engineered products using silicone and other cellular materials. The company serves a variety of specialty markets, focused on three main product categories: silicone, aerospace and fabricated products.
- XCAVATE, a Milton based information research and software development firm, and recent recipient of the Governor's Business Diversification Award for the Entrepreneurship category, Mid Market.

In the final category, Sterling Fibers, a manufacturer of branded specialty fibers located in Pace, was recognized as the Emerging Export Industry of the Year due to the tremendous success of its textile exports worldwide.

Each of the organizations recognized at the luncheon has made a significant, positive economic impact in Santa Rosa County and Northwest Florida and are representative of the quality and diversity of businesses that are thriving in our region. "Santa Rosa County led the State of Florida in wage growth last year, and we remain among the top counties in terms of job growth," said Cindy Anderson, Executive Director of Team Santa Rosa. "This is an opportunity to say 'thank you' to the outstanding businesses that have made these impressive results possible."

TEAM Santa Rosa Economic Development Council, Inc. is the central facilitator for attracting, retaining, and expanding industry, as well as for recruiting and retaining skilled employees. Located at 6491 Caroline Street, Suite 4, Milton, FL 32570, our doors are always to open for prospective clients who would like to better position their business for success. You can also visit our website, www.teamsantarosa.com, or call us at (850) 623-0174.

###

