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## **Aaron Jagdfeld, Generac Power Systems, Inc. recognized as finalist for Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year® award in Upper Midwest region**

**Minneapolis, MN, May 11, 2010** – Ernst & Young LLP is pleased to announce today the finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® award in the Upper Midwest. This group of exceptional entrepreneurs was selected by an independent judging panel made up of regional business, academic and community leaders. Winners will be announced at a gala event on Thursday, June 10, 2010 at the Marriott City Center Hotel in Minneapolis, MN.

“For the past 24 years, Ernst & Young has honored outstanding entrepreneurs through our Entrepreneur of the Year program,” said Bill Miller, Ernst & Young Partner, Strategic Growth Markets. “These entrepreneurs make a tremendous difference within our communities and for our larger economy. We thank them for the positive impact they’ve had in the Upper Midwest.”

The Upper Midwest program recognizes companies based in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota. The finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2010 are:

- Jennifer L. Thalhuber, AbleNet Inc. (Roseville, MN)
- Roland Benjamin, ABRA Auto Body & Glass (Brooklyn Center, MN)
- John Romans, BioMedix Vascular Solutions (Saint Paul, MN)
- Joseph P. Keeley, College Nannies & Tutors Development Group (Wayzata, MN)
- John Hillen, Direct Source, Inc. (Chanhassen, MN)
- Aaron Paul Jagdfeld, Generac Power Systems, Inc. (Waukesha, WI)
- Craig Karmazin, Good Karma Broadcasting LLC (Beaver Dam, WI)
- Timothy A. Johnson, Impact Proven Solutions (Minneapolis, MN)
- LouAnn Reger-Berg, J&L Steel Erectors (Hudson, WI)
- John E. Link, Jack Link’s Beef Jerky (Minong, WI)
- Duane Crandall, Knowledge Marketing (Plymouth, MN)
- Guy C. Mingo, Marsden Holding, L.L. C. (Saint Paul, MN)
- Lee Ehmke, MN Zoological Garden (Apple Valley, MN)
- Jimmy Vosika, ShopJimmy.com (Bloomington, MN)
- Peter Taunton, Snap Fitness (Chanhassen, MN)
- William Jurewicz, space150, LLC (Minneapolis, MN)
- Archie Black SPS Commerce (Minneapolis, MN)
- Jerry Ruzicka, Starkey Laboratories, Inc. (Eden Prairie, MN)
- Omar Ansari, Surly Brewing Co. (Brooklyn Center, MN)

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- Gerald R. Mattys, Tactile Systems Technology, Inc. (Minneapolis, MN)
- Joseph Bartolotta, The Bartolotta Restaurants (Wauwatosa, WI)
- Bill Boelter, The Boelter Companies (Waukesa, WI)
- Frank Kilsanich, The Village Company, LLC (Chaska, MN)
- Dharani Ramamoorthy, Xylo Technologies, Inc. (Rochester, MN)

Regional award winners will be eligible for consideration in the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2010 national program. Winners in numerous national categories, as well as the overall national Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award winner, will be announced at the annual awards gala in Palm Springs, California, on November 14, 2010. The awards are the culminating event of the Ernst & Young Strategic Growth Forum, the nation's most prestigious gathering of high-growth, market-leading companies.

This year, the Entrepreneur of the Year awards program celebrates its 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The program has expanded to recognize business leaders in over 135 cities in 50 countries throughout the world. Awards are given to entrepreneurs who demonstrate extraordinary success in the areas of innovation, financial performance and personal commitment to their businesses and communities.

### **Sponsors**

Founded and produced by Ernst & Young, LLP, the Entrepreneur of the Year awards are pleased to have SAP America and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation as national sponsors.

Regional sponsors for the Upper Midwest Program include Faegre & Benson, LLP, Manpower, *Twin Cities Business*, and Padilla Speer Beardsley.

### **Contact information**

To make reservations for the Entrepreneur of the Year awards gala on June 10, 2010, contact Kim Anderson at +1 612 371 6924 or [kimberly.anderson1@ey.com](mailto:kimberly.anderson1@ey.com). Tickets are \$150 per person. For more information about the program, please visit [www.ey.com/us/eoy](http://www.ey.com/us/eoy).

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### ***About Generac (NYSE: GNRC)***

*Since 1959, Generac has been a leading manufacturer of backup power generation products serving residential, light commercial and industrial markets. Generac's power systems range in output from 800 watts to 9 megawatts and are available through a broad network of independent dealers, retailers and wholesalers.*

***About Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur Of the Year® Awards Program***

(more)

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*Ernst and Young's Entrepreneur Of the Year® Award is the world's most prestigious business award for entrepreneurs. The award makes a difference through the unique way it encourages entrepreneurial activity among those with potential and recognizes the contribution of people who inspire others with their vision, leadership and achievement. As the first and only truly global award of its kind, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® celebrates those who are building and leading successful, growing and dynamic businesses, recognizing them through regional, national and global awards programs in more than 135 cities in 50 countries.*

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