

## High Impact Technology wins SEDCOR award for innovation

MICHAEL ROSE Statesman Journal

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TURNER — The creator of a technology that protects fuel tankers from battle damage in Iraq, a metal roofing manufacturer, a winery, and a construction firm were among the companies honored at a Thursday luncheon.

Business leaders gathered at Willamette Valley Vineyards to honor companies that have prevailed in their industries or shown leadership in the community. More than 300 people attended the event, which was hosted by the Strategic Economic Development Corp., better known as SEDCOR.

High Impact Technology received the Innovative Product of the Year Award. The company is best known for a spray-on coating that makes U.S. Army fuel tankers less vulnerable to attack. When struck by a bullet, the material immediately seals and repairs the damage, preventing the flammable fuel from leaking.

The Tigard-based company works with independent manufacturers, including one in Salem. The company has commercialized a variety of other technologies and has been granted nine patents.

In addition to the SEDCOR award, High Impact also was presented a letter from Rep. Kurt Schrader that praised its technology.

Valley Rolling Corp., a Woodburn company, received the Manufacturer Of The Year award. The company makes metal roofing, siding, and other parts for buildings, such as doors and skylight panels.

Willamette Valley Vineyards was named as the Agri-business Of The Year. SEDCOR noted the Turner-based company's emphasis on environmental stewardships and sustainability.

For example, Willamette Valley instituted programs to promote the recycling of corks and wine bottles. Biodiesel is used in all of its vineyard tractors. In 2005, founder Jim Bernau launched an employee biodiesel program, offering up to 50 gallons of biodiesel a month to each employee at no cost.

LCG Pence Construction, of Salem, received SEDCOR's Business Partner of the Year Award. The award is given to the business that has been active in SEDCOR and has exemplified the best qualities of corporate citizenship.

LCG Pence's volunteer work with community organizations and support of events, such as the Salem-Keizer Educational Foundation and the Awesome 3000, were cited as examples of its contributions

NW Natural received the Community Service of the Year Award. Last year, NW Natural supported almost 400 organizations throughout its service territory with nearly \$1 million in

### About SEDCOR

Strategic Economic Development Corp., better known as SEDCOR, is the lead economic development agency for Marion and Polk counties. It is a private, nonprofit membership organization, composed of more than 500 business and community leaders.

contributions. The company has provided gas service to the Mid-Willamette Valley for about 80 years; it has nearly 87,000 customers in the area today.

The Enterprise for Employment and Education also presented its Mary Pearmine Workforce Leadership Award at the luncheon.

Greg McManus of VIPS Industries and the Phoenix Grand Hotel was this year's winner. The Pearmine award honors businesses and individuals who strive to improve the local work force.

Last year, the Enterprise for Employment and Education unveiled a new award to recognize best practices in workforce development by a team. Diane Dobbles, of Silverton Hospital, and the hospital's "Lean Team" are this year's recipients.

mrose@StatesmanJournal.com or (503) 399-6657