



A program of:



media release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

contact: Shelly Megaw, 507.381.2767
smegaw@greatermankato.com

Greater Mankato Business Accelerator Congratulates Tom Rahm on Minnesota Inventors Congress Awards

MANKATO, Minn. (June 17, 2009) – Greater Mankato Business Accelerator client Tom Rahm of Truman has received awards for two of his many inventions at this year's Minnesota Inventors Congress (MIC) annual invention expo:

Filter Watch

Rahm's diesel dual fuel system received a Silver Medallion and the Jerry Ford Co. Friend of Agriculture Plaque. Rahm thought of the idea after hearing complaints from truck drivers over the years about how their filters continuously plug up due to the removal of sulfur from diesel fuel, which stops bacteria from growing. The dual filter system created by Rahm is a cost effective way for semi truck drivers to change filters with the flip of a switch on the dash, while being environmentally friendly and safer for drivers on the highway. Rahm's next step is testing his prototype in the market.

Train Watch

Rahm also received a Gold Medallion and the Professor Otto Schmidt Memorial Award for being the most innovative invention at this year's event for his railroad crossing alert system. This system was designed to alert rural drivers of trains in the area. He came up with the idea for the railroad crossing after attending a soybean meeting 12 years ago where he learned about the expected increase in the number and speed of trains (50 mph) in the area. With Rahm's invention, a signal alerts the system when the train is ¼ mile away, which then triggers high powered red lights to alert rural drivers. The alert system is 100 percent solar powered and will increase safety for rural areas. Rahm's next step is to work with the State of Minnesota to bring his invention to the next level.

After Rahm received his awards he commented, "The Inventor's Congress reaffirmed that my inventions are needed to increase safety and that they could very well become viable products" Rahm said. Rahm will continue to develop his inventions in an effort to bring them to market.

Rahm has been a client of the Business Accelerator since October 2007 with his business, Rahmtek. "Tom is a serial entrepreneur. He is always looking for real world solutions to everyday problems," Jill Klinger, the New Enterprise & Emerging Business Director for the Business Accelerator program said of Rahm. The Business Accelerator has connected Rahm with several business development resources such as municipal, educational, business planning, and legal resources – to help make his inventions a reality.

A complete list of this year's winners is available at minnesotainventorscongress.org.

About the Greater Mankato Business Accelerator

The Greater Mankato Business Accelerator is a program of the City of Mankato and Greater Mankato Growth Inc., the integrated region's economic development and chamber of commerce organization. The Greater Mankato Business Accelerator connects area start-ups and growing businesses with the resources they need by serving as a single access point for all of southern Minnesota's abundant business development services. Rather than going to multiple organizations, entrepreneurs can access the right resources at the right time, through the Greater Mankato Business Accelerator. Because the Business Accelerator program helps entrepreneurs efficiently navigate all the services available to them, they're able to spend more time building their business.

About the Minnesota Inventors Congress

Since 1958 the Minnesota Inventors Congress has hosted an invention show in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. This event provides inventors an opportunity to test market their products and take advantage of Inventing Success™ Workshops. The Minnesota Inventors Congress has also offered a year round Inventors Resource Center since 1985. Through knowledgeable staff, inventors are taught that the most important investment they can make is to learn how other successful inventors develop marketable products. By directing inventors to reliable resources MIC helps inventors understand that by being intimately involved in the process, they will be able to make the best decisions for them. For more information about the Minnesota Inventor's Congress contact Deb Hess at deb@minnesotainventorscongress.org.

###