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Longmont companies honored at luncheon

By Tony Kindelspire Longmont Times-Call
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LONGMONT -- After Wayne Moore sold the company he founded, Sonora Medical Systems, as part of a three-company merger a few years ago, it didn't take long before he wanted to start another company.

"We decided to buy back some of the intellectual property and stay here in Longmont under the new name, Acertara," Moore said Wednesday, as he accepted the Longmont Area Economic Council's Cornerstone Award in the Small Technology category.

Staying in the medical arena -- Acertara Acoustic is an accredited diagnostic ultrasound device testing and measurement laboratory -- Moore told the approximately 170 people who turned out for the awards that he hopes his new company, which employs a dozen full-timers, will grow to be as big as Sonora was at one point -- 65 employees with revenue of about \$14 million.



Wayne Moore

"We anticipate getting back to that level by growing here in the Longmont area," Moore said.

Wednesday marked the 13th Cornerstone Awards for the LAEC, which are held to honor new and expanding companies in the Longmont area, according to president and CEO John Cody.

Micron Technology won an award in the Large Technology category. The company first entered the Longmont market in 2009 after it bought DisplayTech, but last year it decided to take its semiconductor technology and get into the solid state drive market. What started just a couple of years ago as a 10-person division of the company has grown into about 70 people locally, and they will soon be housed in a second Micron building in Longmont, in which the company is investing about \$5.4 million to retrofit.

Gary Gentry, Micron's general manager, said he was proud his company can follow in the long line of high-tech companies that have tapped into the talent pool in the Longmont area.

Nigel Sutton, president of Advanced Tooling Concepts, accepted the Cornerstone Award in the Small Manufacturing category. He said he moved his company here in 2005 and, in 2010, opened a second facility, a clean room, in Longmont.

"We were able to get the clean room built in a 90-day period thanks to help from the economic council and the city of Longmont," Sutton said.

OnCore Manufacturing won in the Large Manufacturing category. The printed circuit board and contract manufacturer recently settled into its new 58,800-square-foot building, built with the help of city incentives. Jim Sipes, the company's general manager, said OnCore is on pace to completely fulfill its commitment to the city to add a certain number of jobs over a period of time, part of its receiving incentives.

"As we look forward, we can't think of a better place to be and stay than in Longmont," Sipes said.

The Longmont Entrepreneurial Network Award, which became part of the Cornerstone Awards a few years ago, was won by TeraBAT, a company new to Colorado that does diagnostic breath testing.

"They have developed a new technology that will save lives," said Alex Sammoury, LEN's executive director, as he introduced Eyal Gerech, president and CEO of the company.

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Using "terawaves" technology, TeraBAT is developing a medical device that can identify and measure biomolecules present in exhaled human breath, regardless of the age of the patient or the state of consciousness. This will allow for an immediate diagnosis of what's afflicting a patient at that moment, avoiding the delay of waiting for laboratory results.

Gerecht credited Sammoury for bringing his company to Longmont and added, "We really think we are a game-changer in diagnostics."

Wednesday's event was held at the Plaza Conference Center.

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