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RSL's Mitchell Nominated for "Women of Innovation" Award

Connecticut Technology Council Program Recognizes State's Technology Leaders

East Hartford, CT (March 14, 2011) – RSL Fiber Systems, LLC Director of Manufacturing [Billie Jo Mitchell](#) of Mansfield has been nominated by the Connecticut Technology Council as a finalist for the Council's 2011 Women of Innovation Award.



The seventh annual awards program recognizes women across Connecticut – those in the workforce and students – who are innovators, role models and leaders in their technology professions or fields of study. Award recipients will be announced March 31 at the [Council's Awards Dinner](#) at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

"Billie Jo is our bedrock and we could not be more proud of her," said RSL Chief Executive Officer/Chief Technology Officer [Giovanni Tomasi](#). "RSL Fiber Systems would not be experiencing the exciting growth we are enjoying today were it not for Billie Jo's steadfast commitment. This esteemed recognition of her talent and dedication to excellence is highly deserved."

"I am proud to be honored with this nomination by the Connecticut Technology Council," said Mitchell. "My accomplishments with RSL are an absolute reflection of the outstanding team we have built and I share this nomination with them."

Mitchell ([click here to download photo](#)) has been with RSL since the company's founding in 2001 and has seen the company grow from a fledgling venture servicing a single military contract to a rapidly growing, respected advanced lighting solutions provider expanding its reach into a wide variety of markets. Her achievements in the world of technological innovation are the by product of a storied work ethic and insatiable appetite for understanding complex technical subject matter.

Mitchell first met Tomasi when both were with the large cable manufacturer BICC Brand-Rex, Tomasi as a market manager and Mitchell as an administrative assistant. Tomasi recognized Mitchell's desire to learn and grow, and hired her for a fiber optic cable sales position despite no formal training or technology-specific education. It was only a matter of time before she was not only processing orders and managing accounts, but also working directly with engineering on analyzing cable and manufacturing specs. While working full time during the

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day, she attended school at night and completed her degree in Business Administration from Eastern Connecticut State University.

When Tomasi formed RSL Fiber Systems, Mitchell came along. Today, she manages all of RSL's production and operations, with a focus on meeting hardware and engineering deliveries for the company's [U.S. Navy DDG 1000 stealth destroyer](#) contract. In 2008, Mitchell led [RSL's ISO registration](#) process and was responsible for achieving this most notable distinction in less than one year.

Mitchell is one of 56 Connecticut women nominated in eight different categories. She is one of five nominees in the Small Business Innovation and Leadership category.

"This year's 2011 finalists represent another outstanding class of women innovators and leaders," said Beth Alquist, chair of the planning committee for the Women of Innovation Awards Program. "These women represent extraordinary, outstanding contributors to their professions and to their employers."

The Connecticut Technology Council is a statewide association of technology oriented companies and institutions, providing leadership in areas of policy advocacy, community building and assistance for growing companies. For more information on the Council, visit www.ct.org.

The Mitchell nomination is the latest in a series of awards RSL has earned in recent months. Last month, RSL was presented with the [2010 North American Technology Innovation of the Year Award in Remote Source Lighting](#), presented by internationally-renowned global research leader Frost & Sullivan. In October of last year, the company was cited by the Connecticut Technology Council and Marcum LLP as [Connecticut's leading advanced manufacturer in revenue growth](#).

In 2009, RSL earned a Silver Connecticut Quality Improvement Award, awarded by the Connecticut Quality Improvement Award Partnership. RSL has also been nominated for "Business of the Year" by the Greater Hartford Chamber of Commerce.

A division of Skyler Technologies Group, [RSL Fiber Systems](#) provides advanced lighting solutions and integrated illumination systems for U.S. Navy ships including the LPD 17 class, the experimental craft "Sea Fighter," and the Navy's newest stealth destroyer, the DDG 1000, which is currently under construction. The company is also developing illumination systems and solutions for such diverse applications as mining, refineries, offshore oil exploration, first responders/homeland security, and renewable energy.

The company's core technology, [remote source lighting](#), provides safe, low-maintenance, high-performance illumination uniquely by utilizing high-efficiency optical fiber to deliver light safely and effectively to critical or hazardous locations.