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RSL Fiber Systems Leads Way in Hi-Tech Growth in Connecticut

Cited as Fastest-Growing Advanced Manufacturer by Connecticut Technology Council

East Hartford, CT (October 29, 2010) – The competition was worthy, the prize coveted. And on Thursday evening, one company stood tall as the No. 1 Advanced Manufacturer in the state of Connecticut over the past four years.

RSL Fiber Systems, LLC.

The East Hartford, Connecticut-based manufacturer of advanced lighting solutions and illumination systems for commercial and military applications was cited by the Connecticut Technology Council and Marcum LLP as the leading state company in revenue growth in the Advanced Manufacturing category, topping six other worthy finalists. RSL was honored among a gathering of 300 of the state's top business leaders at the Technology Council's annual "Tech Top 40" awards gala at the Oakdale Theater in Wallingford.

The honor capped a whirlwind several years in which RSL, founded in 2001, has invested substantially in research and development, developed new technologies, expanded staff, secured new contracts, established exciting new high-technology partnerships, penetrated new markets and grown exponentially.

As RSL's Giovanni Tomasi, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Technology Officer, said in his award acceptance speech, "It's been a fast, fascinating journey."

"This is truly a great honor," said Tomasi. "I think of us when we moved here in 2007 – four of us, 500 square feet, and the R&D facility in Coventry, Connecticut – also known as my garage!

"We could not have done it without the great RSL team," Tomasi continued. "Our employees are awesome, the best you can have. While it's really great to see the company grow in sales, the best part is to see everybody growing together professionally, sharing the same goals, same objectives, and the same values. That's been the best part."

Tomasi cited the company's defense contracts with Northrup Grumman and Bath Iron Works, two of the nation's largest defense contractors; the fact that the U.S. Navy's USS New

RSL Lead Way in Hi-Tech Growth

2-2-2

York will sail into battle armed with RSL navigation lights; and the company's current work on the Navy's newest generation stealth destroyer, the DDG 1000, as emblematic of the company's growth and success.

"It's all been really great, but we could not have done it without the people at CCAT (Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology), and people like Jack Antonich (consultant with the Connecticut Technology Council), who have provided incubator space and guidance as we've grown."

RSL Fiber Systems was one of seven companies to be cited in the Advanced Manufacturing category. Other categories include Energy/Environmental Technology; IT Services; Life Sciences; New Media/Internet/Telecom; and Software.

The award is among several RSL has earned since its founding in 2001. Last year, the company 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.