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Geothermal Energy Association Announces Winners of Inaugural GEA Honors Awards

Reno, NV (August 16, 2011) – The Geothermal Energy Association has announced the winners for the inaugural [GEA Honors](#), designed to recognize the individuals and companies that have made significant contributions to the development of the geothermal industry. The winners and nominees will be honored tonight at an exclusive awards dinner at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, held in conjunction with the organization's first ever [GEA National Geothermal Summit](#).

GEA Honors are awarded to GEA member companies in three distinct areas: Technological Advancement, Economic Development and Environmental Stewardship. A Special Recognition Honor is open to the entire industry.

"It is our pleasure to highlight the efforts of the individuals and companies that are driving growth and innovation in geothermal power," said GEA Executive Director Karl Gawell. "The progress achieved by this year's honorees has been essential in continuing the expansion of the industry."

GEA Honors 2011 winners:

Technological Advancement – *Awarded to an individual or company that has developed a new, innovative or pioneering technology to further geothermal development.*

WINNER: TAS Energy Inc. New High Efficiency Binary Expander

TAS Energy Inc. has been awarded the GEA Honors Technological Advancement award for its development of new high-efficiency binary expanders, which have substantiated the commercial viability and utility use of low-temperature resources. The new design features off-the-shelf components and ease of field maintenance in addition to utilizing a non-flammable, environmentally friendly working fluid which is both safe and efficient. Lower temperatures than traditionally thought of as 'commercially viable resource temperatures' can now be utilized for geothermal and waste heat applications, demonstrating how this innovative application can potentially add 15% additional power to a geothermal flash plant, delivering improved economics even in high price regions, and decreasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

NOMINEES:

- Atlas Copco Gas and Process Division
- Enel Green Power North America Acoustical Energy Dissipaters aka "Silencers"
- GeoTek Energy LLC's Gravity Head Energy Technology
- Nevada Geothermal Power's Blue Mountain Faulkner 1 Plant
- Star Energy "Wayang Windu" facility in West Java

Economic Development – *Awarded to an individual or company that has made a substantial contribution to the development of local, regional or national markets through the development of geothermal systems.*

WINNER: Ormat Technologies, Inc.

Ormat Technologies, Inc. has won the GEA Honors award in Economic Development for substantial contribution to the development of local, regional, and national markets through the development of geothermal systems in Nevada. With its significant economic contributions to Nevada, Ormat has impacted the geothermal

industry and the state by creating quality jobs, establishing a strong presence for renewables, paying millions of dollars in taxes and supporting quality programs.

NOMINEES:

- GeoGlobal Energy LLC's GGE Chile SpA
- Ram Power Corp's San Jacinte-Tizate Geothermal Project
- Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)

Environmental Stewardship – *Awarded to individual or company that has fostered outstanding environmental stewardship through the use of geothermal systems. These award nominations were evaluated by and presented in conjunction with the [Environmental and Energy Study Institute \(EESI\)](#).*

WINNER: EnergySource LLC/Hudson Ranch 1

EnergySource LLC received the GEA Honors award, presented along with the EESI, for environmental stewardship of its Hudson Ranch 1 Project in Imperial Valley, CA. The Hudson Ranch 1 plant is designed to dramatically reduce CO2 emissions (projected to be less than 70 percent of the average geothermal plant) and to set a new standard in minimized water use. EnergySource has also been actively engaged in the protection of biological resources. Where Burrowing Owls have been impacted by the construction of Hudson Ranch 1, EnergySource has used proven passive relocation techniques and is monitoring the owls until nearby construction ends.

NOMINEES:

- NV Energy
- Northern California Power Agency (NCPA)

Special Recognition – *Awarded to individuals and companies for outstanding achievement in the geothermal industry.*

- Charlene Wardlow, Ormat
- Dan Schochet, Ram Power
- Geothermal Development Associates
- Hezy Ram, Ram Energy, Inc.
- Jonathan Weisgall, MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company
- Larry Nickerson, Ormat
- Marilyn Nemzer, Geothermal Education Office
- POWER Engineers
- Wendell Howard, Geothermal Resource Group
- Wendy Calvin, University of Nevada Reno, Great Basin Center
- Don Campbell, Skip Matlick, Bob Verity, Ormat

About the Geothermal Energy Association:

The Geothermal Energy Association (GEA) is a trade association composed of U.S. companies who support the expanded use of geothermal energy and are developing geothermal resources worldwide for electrical power generation and direct-heat uses. GEA advocates for public policies that will promote the development and utilization of geothermal resources, provides a forum for the industry to discuss issues and problems, encourages research and development to improve geothermal technologies, presents industry views to governmental organizations, provides assistance for the export of geothermal goods and services, compiles statistical data about the geothermal industry, and conducts education and outreach projects. For more information, please visit <http://www.geo-energy.org/>. Follow GEA on [Twitter](#). Become a fan on [Facebook](#).

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