



**National Minority Supplier Development Council, Inc.®**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NMSDC TAPS IBM AS CORPORATION OF THE YEAR**

*Bank of America, Chrysler also Honored*

**SAN ANTONIO, Texas**, October 31, 2013 – The National Minority Supplier Development Council, Inc.® (NMSDC®) presented International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) with its highest honor—the prestigious “Corporation of the Year” award—at a black-tie awards ceremony on Wednesday, October 30. The awards ceremony capped a four-day conference and business opportunity fair attended by nearly 6,000 corporate executives, supplier diversity professionals, government agency representatives and minority business owners from around the world.

NMSDC’s Corporation of the Year award is the most significant honor for major corporations dedicated to improving the overall participation of Asian, Black, Hispanic and Native American suppliers in the global corporate supply chain. Finalists for the award included Ford Motor Company, Johnson Controls, Raytheon and Toyota.

“IBM’s unwavering commitment to supplier diversity predates the chartering of NMSDC in 1972,” said NMSDC President Joset Wright-Lacy. “The technology giant was one of the first corporations to start a supplier development program. Over the course of four decades, IBM has solidified its position among the leading practitioners of global supplier diversity.”

A founding member of NMSDC, IBM’s corporate policy mandates supplier diversity and development worldwide. The company’s procurement spend in the U.S. tops \$1.3 billion; another \$778 million is spent abroad. A diverse supplier is included on every request for qualifications and request for proposal—without exception. IBM, the 2005 winner of this award, employs four global directives to meet its goals: capacity development, opportunities and/or access, innovation and a global network of qualified minority business enterprises (MBEs).

NMSDC presented two new corporate awards at the event. The Corporate Excellence in Access to Capital Award recognizes a corporation with an exceptional corporate initiative and/or program designed to provide access to capital solutions or unique financial arrangements to minority suppliers. Access to such financing facilitates business growth and stimulates job creation and retention. Bank of America Corporation is the inaugural winner of the award for its Small Business Reserve Grant program.

The Corporate Innovation Award recognizes a new corporate method, initiative or process to accelerate and positively impact minority supplier development in support of NMSDC’s

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## **2013 NMSDC AWARD WINNERS**

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vision, mission and core capabilities – certify, develop, connect and advocate – with particular emphasis on professional services and non-traditional categories. Chrysler is the inaugural winner of the award for its High Focus Supplier Program, which encourages lower performing suppliers to improve by creating a structured reporting process. Chrysler's Tier Two transformational program improved by 31 percent or \$600 million, while the 130 high focus suppliers improved 268 percent.

NMSDC also presented Reginald K. Layton of Johnson Controls with the Minority Supplier Development Leader of the Year Award. The Houston Minority Supplier Development Council was named NMSDC Regional Council of the Year. AD PRO (for firms with annual sales less than \$1 million), 21<sup>st</sup> Century Expo Group (for firms with annual sales between \$1 million and \$10 million), Way To Be Designs (for firms with annual sales between \$10 million and \$50 million) and Guy Brown (for firms with annual sales greater than \$50 million) were honored as National Suppliers of the Year.

Twelve minority businesses were honored as Regional Suppliers of the Year. They are Cube Care Company; Custom Service Plastics, Inc.; Diamond Restoration, LLC; GDKN Corporation; Metal-Era; New Age Communications; Osceola Consulting; Pride Technologies; Rose International, Inc.; Tempo Creative Consultants; World Wide Technology, Inc.; and Zycron, Inc.

### **ABOUT NMSDC**

The National Minority Supplier Development Council, Inc. is the global leader in advancing business opportunities for certified Asian, Black, Hispanic and Native American business enterprises and connecting them to corporate members. One of the country's leading corporate membership organizations, NMSDC was chartered in 1972 to provide increased procurement and business opportunities for minority businesses of all sizes.

The NMSDC Network includes a national office in New York and regional councils across the country. There are 1,700 corporate members throughout the network, including America's top publicly-owned, privately-owned and foreign-owned companies as well as universities, hospitals and other buying institutions. The regional councils certify and match 12,000 minority-owned businesses with member corporations that want to purchase their products, services and solutions.

For more information about NMSDC, call (212) 944-2430 or visit the website at [www.nmsdc.org](http://www.nmsdc.org).

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