

Calgary tech firms honoured

BY DINA O'MEARA, CALGARY HERALD SEPTEMBER 26, 2009

Technology companies in Calgary received a moral and public boost this week during the first TechRev Innovators event, putting startup and established companies in a spotlight more often reserved for oil and gas producers.

More than 130 technology companies were nominated for the program, which recognized Thursday a range of accomplishments in the sector.

"One of the tough things about being a technology company in Alberta is competing with oil and gas related companies," said Paul Heemeryck, chief technology officer with Print Audit, one of 10 company recipients.

About 10 years ago, Print Audit developed software to track printing and photocopying to help companies reduce their costs, a concept that took off around the world.

TechRev was developed to shine the light on Calgary's burgeoning but often overlooked technology companies, said one of the event judges.

"There's a lot happening in Calgary in technology, which is often overshadowed by all of the energy that runs in our blood," said venture capitalist Shawn Abbott with Inovia Capital. "We have to work a little harder to create visibility."

Abbot formed part of a 12-member advisory council that selected the 10 TechRev recipients, which included companies involved in oil and gas, social networking, education and health.

"It was really inspiring to see the depth and the breadth of innovators that were on the list," said Pam Boytinck, TechRev executive director.

Other recipients included SMART Technologies, 3esi, Circle CardiovascularImaging, CoolITSystems, Replicon, Evoco, Solium Capital Online, Tynt Multimedia and Oncolytics Biomedical.

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