

News Release
April 9, 2009

ARS Mechanical Wins Regional

ARS Mechanical, a client of the Georgia Minority Business Enterprise Center (GMBEC), was recently awarded the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Atlanta National Enterprise Center's award for minority construction firm of the year. The Conyers firm beat out nominees in eight southeastern states.

ARS Mechanical is an African American owned heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) services firm established in September 2002 by Alfred Shepherd and Sadat Nichols. Headquartered in Conyers, Ga., with 20 employees, the company specializes in commercial and industrial heating, ventilation and air conditioning. The GMBEC, based at Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute, is assisting ARS Mechanical raise expansion capital, develop a strategic growth plan and respond to procurement opportunities.

"This is a tremendous honor for not just ARS Mechanical, but for all Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs)," said Alfred Shepherd, president of ARS Mechanical. "I hope this award stands as a symbol of encouragement to all minority business owners to embrace the challenge and help mentor and encourage smaller MBEs."

The recognition was part of the 25th anniversary of Minority Enterprise Development (MED) activities. MED Week celebrates the achievements of the minority business community and honors outstanding minority business leaders every year who excel in their field of business and demonstrate excellent leadership at the local, regional or national level. Winning firms are chosen based on economic impact, job creation and community leadership.

ARS Mechanical was recognized at GMBEC's third annual Financial Roundtable Forum, held last month at Georgia Tech. Participants learned how to develop successful growth strategies and heard from CEOs of high-revenue firms such as Steve Ewing of Wade Ford, Woodrow Hall of Diversapack, Rory Sanderson of Sanderson Industries, and Mark Wilson of Ryla Teleservices.

GMBEC's mission is to provide business and technical assistance that helps emerging and existing minority businesses experience significant growth and sustainability and have a long-term economic impact through the creation of jobs and revenue.

For more information on MBE services offered by Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute, contact Donna Ennis (404-894-2096); E-mail: (donna.ennis@innovate.gatech.edu).

About Enterprise Innovation Institute:

The Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute helps companies, entrepreneurs, economic developers and communities improve their competitiveness through the application of science, technology and innovation. It is one of the most comprehensive university-based programs of business and industry assistance, technology commercialization and economic development in the nation.

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