PENC Presents the 1999 Governor's New Product Awards



The Governor's New Product Award winners (from left to right) are Karl Leinsing, PE, Senior Principal Design Engineer, ALARIS Medical Systems; Samuel N. Gasque, President, Lightning Retardant Cable; and Michael R. Feldman, Chief Technology Officer, Digital Optics Corporation. Standing next to them are Gil Vinzani, PE, Chairman of the 1999 Governor's New Product Award Competition and Gene Byrd, Economic Development Representative, NC Department of Commerce.

The Professional Engineers of North Carolina Honored the winners of the 1999 Governor's New Product on Friday, July 2, 1999, during the annual Professional Development Conference held at Charleston Place in Charleston, S.C. Mr. Gene Byrd, Economic Development Representative for the North Carolina Department of Commerce presented the awards during the Governor's New Product Award Luncheon. Close to 100 PENC members, representatives of the winning companies, and other dignitaries attended the luncheon.

"The purpose of the awards program is to recognize new products for excellence in design and contribution to the economy of North Carolina. When considering the recipients of the New Products Award, judges weigh the product's overall economic contribution to North Carolina, including the number of jobs created to produce the product; the ingenuity in the use of engineering principles, technology and materials; the improved function of the design, ease, and savings in use of the new product; safety to the user; and the product's appearance, packaging, and marketing. Awards are presented in three size categories: small, medium, and large company categories," said Gil Vinzani,, PE,

Senior Auditor with Carolina Power & Light Company and Chairman of this year's program.

The New Product Award for the Small Company Category was awarded to Consumer Lightning Products, Inc. of Hendersonville, NC for Lightning Retardant Cable.

Lightning Retardant Cable represents an innovative way to build wire and cable to stop lightning damage. manufactured using a patented process that can be added to any finished cable. This process greatly increases lightning protection over standard cable, saving costly damage due to lightning strikes. Lightning Retardant Cable can provide surge protection for satellite television equipment and other types of electrical equipment including power lines, telephone lines, and computer networks, or any outdoor cable systems. Samuel N. Gasque, Jr. of Consumer Lightning Products, Inc. accepted the award.

Digital Optics Corporation in Charlotte, NC was the winner of the medium-size company category. Waferbased micro-optics are fabricated using photolithography, or light-based technologies. The product improves the performance of optical design systems and reduces their complexity. For example, beam-shaper micro-optics are typically smaller in size and lower in cost. A data storage sensor can be reduced in size by a factor of 1000, reduced in cost by a factor of two, and reduced in weight by 20 milligrams. This improves optical designs for markets such as telecommunications, data storage, semiconductor equipment, bar code scanning, and sensors. Mr. Michael R. Feldman, Chief Technology Officer, accepted the award for Digital Optics Corp.

The winner in the large company category was ALARIS Medical Systems, Inc. of Creedmoor, NC for the SmartSite Needle-Free Valve. The SmartSite needle free valve is designed to offer safe and convenient medical infusion access without the use of needles. It replaces latex injection sites used in intravenous drug and fluid delivery systems. Currently, a needle is used to access injection sites. Use of a needle may lead to accidental needle sticks and the transmission of blood borne diseases. The SmartSite needle-free valve eliminates the use of needles. Instead, any standard fitting found on most syringes and IV sets can connect directly to the SmartSite needle-free valve. Mr. Karl R. Leinsing, PE, Senior Principal Design Engineer of ALARIS accepted the award.

"This is the sixteenth year of the Governor's New Product Award sponsored by PENC in cooperation with the North Carolina State Industrial Extension Service and The North Carolina Department of Commerce," said Vinzani, who served as Chairman of the judging committee. Joining him on the committee were Robert L. Edwards, PE, Coordinator of Advanced Programs at the North Carolina Industrial Extension Service; Bill Breedlove, PE, Manager of Engineering and Technical Support at Duke Energy; Jim Nichols, Director of Electronics and Information Technologies Development with the NC Department of Commerce; and Curtis A. Brookshire, Jr., PE of Hackney and Sons, Inc. of Washington, NC a previous state and national New Products Award winner.

Winners advance to the national competition sponsored by NSPE, The National Society of Professional Engineers, where North Carolina has produced seven previous national winners.