

NEWS RELEASE

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Appareo Systems Named Outstanding Incubator Graduate of the Year Batcheller, Walter accept award in Orlando, FL

FARGO, ND (5/25/10) – Appareo Systems, LLC has recently been named the 2010 Outstanding Incubator Graduate of the Year in the technology category at the National Business Incubation Association’s International Conference on Business Incubation in Orlando, Florida. Appareo’s chief operating officer David Batcheller and chief financial officer Ahron Walter accepted the award on behalf of the company.

Appareo Systems produces hardware and software solutions for the aviation and defense industries and employs more than 60 people in its Fargo headquarters. Founded in 2001, Appareo has been at home in the North Dakota State University Research and Technology Park (RTP) since 2003, and took up residence in the RTP’s Technology Incubator building in 2007. Appareo’s graduation from the incubator came in late 2009 when the company moved into their own facility - the newly built Batcheller Technology Center, also located within the RTP.

Throughout the years, Appareo has benefitted significantly from the services and facilities offered by the RTP and the Technology Incubator as well as their close association with the university – an important source of highly capable and well-trained employees.

“Appareo Systems has found a great deal of success in the recent years and part of that has come from our partnership with the Research and Technology Park and the Technology Incubator,” said David Batcheller, Appareo’s chief operating officer. “The assistance that executive director Tony Grindberg and his staff have offered us has been priceless. We’re honored to have been named Outstanding Incubator Graduate of the Year by the NBIA and we happily share credit for that honor with the great folks at the Technology Incubator.”

"Appareo has experienced business success while riding an aggressive growth trajectory, which would have been considerably more difficult without access to a facility like the Technology Incubator," ...
"We believe the incubator and its staff will encourage the local evolution of technology-orientated business and help create a cluster of home-grown enterprise that will ensure the continued growth of the Fargo Moorhead area. We're honored to have been named Outstanding Incubator Graduate of the Year by the NBIA and we happily share credit for that honor with the Technology Incubator."

As a part of the Technology Incubator, Appareo has also been able to give back to the university community through its internship program and its involvement with a number of NDSU sponsored initiatives designed to enrich student's academic experiences by enabling them to work with successful and innovative local companies.

"Appareo Systems is a great example of what can happen when you take a business with a lot of potential and allow them to concentrate on what it is they do best," said Grindberg. "With the support of the Technology Incubator, they were able to focus more fully on the core aspects of their business – building innovative products for aviation – which allowed them to grow and succeed at a faster rate than they otherwise might have. It's been our pleasure to play a part in Appareo's success and we couldn't be happier to see them receive this great award from the NBIA."

The NBIA is the world's leading organization advancing business incubation and entrepreneurship. Each year, the NBIA Incubation Awards honor the business incubation programs, graduates and client companies that exemplify the best of the industry.

About Appareo Systems, LLC

Appareo Systems is a recognized leader in the custom development and manufacture of low-cost innovative avionic solutions for original equipment manufacturers. Through the creative application of cutting-edge technologies, the company creates complex end-to-end solutions that include both airborne and ground station components. Appareo offers turn-key services from product conceptualization through attainment of STC. In addition, the company is an accredited FAA Parts Manufacturing facility.

Appareo's ALERTS system for flight data capture and analysis was named the 2007 Product Breakthrough of the Year by *Aviation Week & Space Technology* and recognized by the American Helicopter Association with the 2008 Harry T. Jensen award for outstanding contribution to helicopter safety and reliability.

Appareo Systems is based in Fargo, ND.

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