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Governor Tomblin to Recognize Jefferson County Businesses

In June, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin joined the WV Export Council and the WV Development Office to present the Governor's Commendation for International Market Entry to representatives of 49 West Virginia businesses. The award honors companies that have successfully exported to a new country in the past year. Two Jefferson County businesses, Schonstedt Instrument Company and STaSIS, will be honored in a presentation on Monday, October 15th at 3PM. Debra Martin of the West Virginia Development Office will be in the area to present the awards.

"Our export performance continues to be a source of pride for our state and strength in our economy," said Gov. Tomblin. "International trade and investment create and retain jobs in West Virginia. In 2011, West Virginia exports increased 39.5 percent, the highest export growth rate of any state in the nation. I thank our exporting companies for their efforts and congratulate them on their success."

The Governor's Commendation for International Market Entry includes framed currency from each new country to which the recipient business began exporting in 2011. The presentation is based on the tradition of displaying the first dollar a business earns.

The Schonstedt Instrument Company, located in Kearneysville, will be recognized for the export business in Zimbabwe and Mongolia. "To date, we at Schonstedt have exported our underground locating equipment to 85 countries throughout the world, said Bob Ebberson, Director of Development for Schnostedt. "By focusing considerable effort on international markets, export sales have grown to become 30% of our total business. We anticipate increasing that percentage in the years ahead as we continue to seek out new opportunities in export markets."

STaSIS Engineering, of Summit Point, currently exports their products to several countries including: Indonesia, India, New Zealand, Switzerland, Sweden, Chile, Guatemala, Russia, Thailand, Taiwan, Malaysia, Turkey, Greece. Stasis specializes in performance-enhancing products for Audi and other Volkswagen Group products. "STaSIS looks forward to continuing our growth in markets around the world. Our base here in Jefferson County, West Virginia gives us a unique advantage in our access to facilities, vendors and a skilled workforce." – Todd Cope, CFO STaSIS

John Reisenweber, Executive Director of the Jefferson County Development Authority said, "We are pleased that our businesses in Jefferson County are finding success in other countries. In a global economy, it is important for businesses to seek entry into and expand their exporting efforts. STaSIS and Schonstedt have done a great job of capitalizing on this customer base and we are fortunate to have them right here in Jefferson County."

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