



Cleveland's Robert Schmidt Named 2006 Small Business Advocate of the Year

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, D.C. - The National Small Business Association has named Cleveland's Robert Schmidt as its 2006 Small Business Advocate of the Year. The award will be given to him as part of NSBA's Washington Presentation, to be held May 10-11 at the Wyndham Washington. The hotel is located at 1400 M Street NW in Washington, D.C.

The other national award finalists were Marilyn Landis of Pittsburgh, Sharon Maloley of Phoenix, John Meyers of Upper Marlboro, Md., and Joanne Randolph of Huntsville, Ala.

"Robert distinguished himself from an exemplary field that included many extremely active and passionate small-business advocates," NSBA Chair Paul Hense said. "He has worked hard on behalf of small business and NSBA is extremely proud of what he accomplished as well as his continuing efforts."

Schmidt founded Cleveland Medical Devices Inc. and Orbital Research Inc. in 1990. The companies have experienced much success, both being named to the Inc. 500 list and northeast Ohio's Weatherhead 100 list. CleveMed has developed a growing range of products that address the needs of the medical, research and academic communities. The company's rehabilitation department focuses on portable monitoring and rehabilitation technology for pressure sore prevention and movement disorders, such as Parkinson's disease.

"Supporting small business is the most important economic decision any nation or community can make," Schmidt said. "Small business is the mother of new technology and innovation, the single most important driver of our economy. Without small businesses, we will have no large businesses in the future, as most large companies do not survive for 100 years."

In addition to running a successful company, Schmidt devotes much of his time to small-business advocacy. In 2002, he worked with Sens. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) and George Voinovich (R-Ohio) to help small businesses save \$10,000 in taxes for those that were purchasing new capital equipment. Additionally, Schmidt formed a panel, which ultimately recommended new commercialization grants in Ohio. His work helped create a new law that helped new job creation funds flow to small businesses in the state.

Schmidt is a board member of the Small Business Technology Council and is very active on issues related to the Small Business Innovation Research program.

For nearly 70 years, NSBA has been an advocate for the interests of small businesses throughout the country. The organization, which reaches more than 150,000 small businesses, is proud to be the first national small business advocacy organization in the United States.

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