



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EY ANNOUNCES JOHN SAMMUT AND JOCHEN LIPP OF FIRSTRONIC AS ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR® 2020 MICHIGAN AND NORTHWEST OHIO AWARD FINALISTS**

GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Ernst & Young LLP (EY US) today announced that John Sammut and Jochen Lipp of Firstronic were named Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2020 Michigan and Northwest Ohio Award finalists. Now in its 34th year, the Entrepreneur Of The Year program honors entrepreneurial business leaders whose ambitions deliver innovation, growth and prosperity as they build and sustain successful businesses that transform our world. Sammut and Lipp were selected as two of 29 finalists by a panel of independent judges from a competitive pool of nominations. The pair previously won this award in 2006 for their turnaround strategy at EPIC Technologies.

Award winners will be announced through a special virtual event on Thursday, October 8 at 6 p.m. EDT and will join a lifelong community of esteemed Entrepreneur Of The Year alumni from around the world. This year, unstoppable entrepreneurs who have provided extraordinary support for their communities, employees and others during the COVID-19 crisis will also be recognized for their courage, resilience and ingenuity.

Entrepreneur Of The Year is one of the preeminent competitive award programs for entrepreneurs and leaders of high-growth companies. The nominees are evaluated based on six criteria, including overcoming adversity; financial performance; societal impact and commitment to building a values-based company; innovation; and talent management. Since its launch, the program has expanded to recognize business leaders in more than 145 cities in over 60 countries around the world.

“It is a true honor to once again be on the path to win this prestigious award, following the successful implementation of our unique EMS business model at Firstronic. As always, our great team at Firstronic is the primary reason we continue to achieve industry-leading results,” said John Sammut, Firstronic’s President and CEO.

“In an industry where better, faster, cheaper is considered the norm, I’m pleased that the organizational model John and I have developed for delivering industry-leading results has been recognized once again. I’m also thankful for a team that in a year of unprecedented challenges, continues to perform exceptionally well. Being named a finalist isn’t simply a personal accomplishment, it is also a reflection on the quality of the entire Firstronic team,” said Jochen Lipp, Firstronic COO.

Regional award winners are eligible for consideration for the Entrepreneur Of The Year National Awards, to be announced in November during a virtual awards gala. The Entrepreneur Of The Year National Overall Award winner will then move on to compete for the EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year™ Award in June 2021.

Entrepreneur Of The Year Award winners become lifetime members of a global, multi-industry community of entrepreneurs, with exclusive, ongoing access to the experience, insight and wisdom of

program alumni and other ecosystem members in over 60 countries — all supported by vast EY resources.

Founded and produced by Ernst & Young LLP, the Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards are nationally sponsored by SAP America and the Kauffman Foundation. In Michigan and Northwest Ohio, sponsors also include Citizens Bank, Donnelley Financial Solutions, Trion Solutions, Oswald Companies, Stanton Chase, and Tanner Friedman Strategic Communications.

#### **About Firstronic LLC**

Firstronic LLC ([www.firstronic.com](http://www.firstronic.com)) provides advanced electronics manufacturing services and optimized supply chain solutions for companies in a wide range of industries including automotive, industrial and medical device. Headquartered in Grand Rapids, MI, Firstronic has a 35,000 square foot facility, state-of-the-art equipment and a seasoned management team with an average tenure of 20 years and a 70,000 square foot facility in Juarez, Mexico. It also supports companies needing access to global manufacturing locations via joint venture operations in China, France, Germany, Poland and Tunisia.

#### **About Entrepreneur Of The Year®**

Entrepreneur Of The Year® is the world's most prestigious business awards program for unstoppable entrepreneurs. These visionary leaders deliver innovation, growth and prosperity that transform our world. The program engages entrepreneurs with insights and experiences that foster growth. It connects them with their peers to strengthen entrepreneurship around the world. Entrepreneur Of The Year is the first and only truly global awards program of its kind. It celebrates entrepreneurs through regional and national awards programs in more than 145 cities in over 60 countries. Winners go on to compete for the EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year™ title. [ey.com/us/eoy](http://ey.com/us/eoy)

#### **About EY**

EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, strategy, transaction and consulting services. The insights and quality services we deliver help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. We develop outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all of our stakeholders. In so doing, we play a critical role in building a better working world for our people, for our clients and for our communities.

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