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**THERMO PRIDE ENGINEERING DESIGN TEAM NOMINATED FOR TEAM AWARD
FROM THE SOCIETY OF INNOVATORS OF NORTHWEST INDIANA**

Starke County, Indiana – The Starke County Economic Development Foundation (SCEDF) has nominated Thermo Pride Engineering Design Team in North Judson, Indiana for a Team Innovator’s Award from The Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana.

This nomination is for the engineering team consisting of Everett James, Director of Engineering, and Michael Sharkozy, Project Engineer. Thermo Products, Inc. was established at North Judson, Indiana more than 60 years ago and is widely considered to be a leading manufacturer and designer of oil-fired heating equipment.

The two engineers at Thermo Products, Inc. applied an existing technology (eductor) in a new way to create an ultra-high efficiency oil-fired furnace with greater safety, thereby producing fewer emissions per unit of heat utilized, for the thousands of families that rely upon oil heat furnaces in the United States. The challenge to the Thermo Pride Engineering Design Team was to design a high-efficiency condensing oil-fired furnace for residential and commercial heating, using a power oil burner with negative pressure combustion chamber without creating the carbon build-up from the initial ignition pressure spike in the heat exchanger. As less fuel is required to produce the same amount of heat, there are fewer emissions to heat the same house with the Thermo Products ultra-high efficiency furnace than with a standard furnace or prior high efficiency oil-fired furnace. This furnace has an efficiency rating of 95%. The high

efficiency oil-fired furnaces have an efficiency rating of 85-87% while high efficiency natural gas and propane furnaces are rated at 92%.

The Society of Innovators is an initiative to celebrate and promote innovation and innovators in Northwest Indiana, sponsored by Ivy Tech Community College and various partners. Each year, nominations are accepted for individuals and teams doing innovative things across Northwest Indiana, including the seven counties of Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, and Starke Counties. Northwest Indiana will be known around the world as a region that discovers and encourages, celebrates and honors creativity and innovation.

All nominations for this award will be reviewed by a committee, with awards to be announced this coming fall. Previously, innovation awards have been given to the Kemin-Lambert Farms Team and the Knox Lead Railroad Track Team. The Kemin-Lambert Farms Team was also awarded the Chanute Prize for Innovation.

About SCEDF

The Starke County Economic Development Foundation is a not-for-profit local economic development organization (LEDO) providing economic development opportunities on behalf of Starke County, Indiana, the City of Knox, and the Towns of North Judson and Hamlet through the development of industrial parks, rail spurs, greenfield sites, shovel-ready sites, infrastructure, and workforce development. For more information regarding Starke County Economic Development Foundation, visit www.scedf.biz.

About The Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana

The Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana is an initiative to celebrate and promote innovation and innovators in the seven counties of Northwest Indiana. It is sponsored by Ivy Tech Community College and is a part of the Gerald I. Lamkin Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center. The Center is Northwest Indiana's innovation and entrepreneurship gateway to lifelong innovators, lifelong learners, and lifelong leaders. In its efforts to inspire innovation and creativity, the Center discovers, encourages, honors and celebrates individual and team innovators across the generations through The Society of Innovators. For more information regarding the Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana, visit <http://www.ivytech.edu/northwest/Innovation/>

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