



NEWS

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k-Space Wins SBA, “2011 Exporter of the Year” Award

Dexter, MI. May 2, 2011– Darryl Barlett, co-founder and General Manager of k-Space Associates, Inc. has been awarded the US Small Business Administration’s (SBA) 2011 Exporter of the Year award for both Michigan, Midwest Region and National. Darryl was formally presented with the Michigan award on April 28, 2011 at the 7th annual Michigan Celebrates Small Business awards event at The Lansing Center in Lansing, Michigan. Darryl will again be feted at the National Small Business Week celebration to be held in Washington, DC, May 18 – 20, 2011. The Exporter of the Year award is given to companies who have increased sales, profits, and/or growth of employment as a result of creative overseas marketing strategies, devised effective solutions to export-related problems, have demonstrated encouragement of other small businesses to export, provided voluntary assistance to other small businesses entering the export market, cooperated with other firms in the creation of export trading companies and/or introduced unique trading relationships, products or services.



“We’re proud, because we’re all Michigan people here,” Darryl Barlett said, reacting to the award. “We manufacture everything in-house. We take pride in what we make and, obviously, people find a use for it globally, not just here.”

kSA began manufacturing its in-situ monitoring products and specialized software in 1992, based on scientific innovations developed in the University of Michigan’s research laboratories. The company’s expertise in real-time process monitoring technology is recognized by major semiconductor, high brightness LED, and photovoltaic panel manufacturers worldwide. kSA’s newest equipment, which monitors the production of solar photovoltaic panels, has become the fastest growing segment of its export business. While many of the businesses in Michigan have been outsourcing and exporting jobs to Asia, kSA has been developing innovative new metrology products in Michigan and exporting its products worldwide, mainly to Europe, Japan, Korea and China. All of kSA’s manufacturing is done in Michigan and over 60% of sales are exported to other countries. This accounts for the doubling of its workforce over the last 3 years alone and is driving plans in 2011 to double its manufacturing size in Dexter, MI.

k-Space Associates, Inc. (www.k-space.com) is a leading supplier of advanced instrumentation and software for the surface science and thin-film technology industries. Founded in 1992, its systems are used for monitoring wafer temperature, thin film stress, deposition rate, and Reflective High Energy Electron Diffraction (RHEED). Backed by a commitment to ongoing support, these solutions are currently in use at hundreds of today’s leading R&D laboratories in addition to the most advanced silicon wafer fabrication facilities worldwide. Extensive input and close collaboration with its worldwide customer base has lead to the development of today’s most powerful thin film characterization products.