

## **Nominations Open for The Expo Group Show Manager of the Year (SMOTY) Awards Program**

Irving, Texas – June 23, 2009 – The Expo Group is now accepting nominations for its 2009 Show Manager of the Year Awards program, which honors the most innovative and hardworking show managers in the industry. This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SMOTY Awards and the first year the event has been in Houston.

"We started this awards program 10 years ago to bring attention to show managers in our industry who were really making a difference. I suspect this year more than ever before the nominees will have demonstrated leadership, tenacity and perseverance," says The Expo Group President and CEO Ray Pekowski. "This is a special year for the awards not only because of the 10th anniversary but also because of these unprecedented economic challenges in our industry."

Anyone is welcome to submit a nomination. It's easy to do online at [www.theexpogroup.com/smoty](http://www.theexpogroup.com/smoty). Nominees need not be clients of The Expo Group and are not solicited based on their nomination. Nominations are judged by an independent panel of industry publishers and noted tradeshow mentors.

"I personally am eager to hear about the accomplishments of the show managers nominated," Pekowski says. "Visit the SMOTY website to see how winning a SMOTY award has impacted one previous winner and learn who already has this prestigious trophy on their desk."

The 2009 SMOTY winners will be flown to Houston for the Nov. 12 gala dinner. Honorees will receive the crystal obelisk trophy, industry-wide recognition and a \$1,000 donation to the charity or educational institution of their choice.

Questions about The Expo Group SMOTY awards program can be directed to Lisa Cleveland of The Expo Group at 972-751-9636 or visit [www.theexpogroup.com/smoty/faq.asp](http://www.theexpogroup.com/smoty/faq.asp).

The Expo Group is a Single Source® partner fulfilling the needs of show organizers, corporate planners, marketers and exhibitors. The Dallas-based company also has offices in Las Vegas, Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington D.C.

For more information and/or photos, contact Dana Freker Doody at 972-580-9000 or send an email to [ddoody@theexpogroup.com](mailto:ddoody@theexpogroup.com).

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