



Middleby Marshall is Named Top 100 Finalist for the 13th Annual Chicago Innovation Awards

Elgin, Ill. (September 16, 2014) — Middleby Marshall has been selected as one of the Top 100 Finalists for the 13th annual Chicago Innovation Awards out of more than 550 product submissions.

“We are excited the Kitchen of the Future is a finalist for this prestigious award focused on local innovation,” said Mark Sieron, Group President of Middleby Marshall. “Making it to this level validates our customer data for this award submission supports that Kitchen of the Future has saves operators in labor, energy and food costs while improving menu quality, diversity and consistency.”

The industry-changing Kitchen of the Future, has revolutionized the way commercial kitchens operate. The unit consists of a CTX infrared conveyor oven stacked on a Middleby Marshall WOW! conveyor oven, a perfect synergy between simplicity and innovation. The food is placed on the conveyor and in minutes comes out hot and ready to be served. The oven provides a consistent bake to every type of food, from appetizers to pizzas to steak, and saves restaurants on labor and energy costs while cutting ticket times in half, allowing customers to receive their food faster than with conventional equipment.

The Chicago Innovation Awards celebrate the most innovative new products and services in the Chicago region across all organization sizes, sectors and industries. “Chicago is in the midst of a monumental upsurge in innovation,” said Tom Kuczmariski, co-founder with Chicago journalist Dan Miller of the awards. “It’s inspiring to see the range of vision and the depth of talent among organizations in the Chicago area. ”

Each of the Top 100 Finalists is also in the running for the “People’s Choice Award,” selected through online balloting at www.chicagoinnovationawards.com. More than 1,500 business and civic leaders will come together to honor the winners when they are announced October 30 at Chicago’s Harris Theater. Judges will select 10 winners from the Top 100 to receive a Chicago Innovation Awards, as well as winners of the Up-and-Comer Awards representing innovation in the start-up community, the Social Innovator Award and the Collaboration Award. The winners will have the opportunity to ring the NASDAQ Bell in New York, and will be invited to meetings with top state and local officials to discuss their innovation.

About Middleby Marshall

Middleby Marshall is the world leader in conveyor cooking and is known for its durability and a perfect bake every time. The award-winning WOW! Oven has received recognition and accolades from all over the world.

About The Chicago Innovation Awards

The Chicago Innovation Awards, established in 2002, has grown from a single awards ceremony to a year-long series of events and activities designed to celebrate innovation in the Chicago region, educate people and organizations about the principles of innovation, and connect the corners of the economy by building relationships that strengthen companies, grow the economy, and create jobs. The organization’s expansion has included formation of the Chicago Innovation Foundation, which promotes innovation education and provides scholarships to college students each year, as well as The Innovators Connection, which connects large companies with Chicago-based start-ups. For more information, visit www.chicagoinnovationawards.com.

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