



Terra Contracting, LLC
"Exceptional Environmental Services"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 24, 2009

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Kalamazoo-based Terra Contracting, LLC Honored as one of the 2009 "Michigan 50 Companies to Watch"

Kalamazoo – Terra Contracting, LLC has been named as one of the 2009 "Michigan 50 Companies to Watch," an awards program sponsored by the Edward Lowe Foundation and presented by Michigan Celebrates Small Business.

Terra will be honored at an awards ceremony during the fifth annual Michigan Celebrates Small Business event, April 30 in Lansing, Mich.

Winners of the "Michigan 50" are selected by a panel of judges from the banking, economic development, entrepreneurship development and venture capital communities. Evaluation is based on a variety of factors including growth, exceptional entrepreneurial leadership, and competitive advantage among others. Nominees must be second-stage companies, defined as having 6 to 99 full-time-equivalent employees and generating \$750,000 to \$50 million in annual revenue or working capital from investors or grants. In addition, the companies must be privately held and headquartered in Michigan.

Founded in 2001, Terra Contracting provides a range of environmental services including soil and groundwater remediation, wetland construction, riverbank stabilization, landfill capping and maintenance and related services throughout the country. Among the many projects Terra has handled over the past year was the Kalamazoo River project involving removal of PCB-contaminated sediment from the river bed and banks near Plainwell. The company completed the second phase of the project last February.

"We are extremely pleased to be honored as a Michigan 50 company," said Steve Taplin, founder and CEO of Terra Contracting. "We are especially proud given the difficult business environment—it shows the hard work of our management team and all of our personnel in the field is paying off. It also underscores the effectiveness of our management philosophy, which is built on six principles my late father, Al Taplin, developed as he grew his industrial services company. The first of these principles is "integrity" and the rest follow. We've stuck to these principles, and they've helped us navigate the challenges of today's economic environment."

"In today's economy, Companies to Watch has become a real game changer," said Penny Lewandowski, director of entrepreneurship development at the Edward Lowe Foundation, a nonprofit operating foundation based in Michigan. "It changes the conversation from slow-growth, layoffs and closings, to companies that are expanding, hiring, and moving beyond traditional markets."

“Presenters of the Michigan program recognized this potential since its inaugural year, five years ago,” Lewandowski said. “With a vow to find 50 new companies to celebrate each year, Michigan 50 Companies to Watch is now 250 strong. These are the companies that sustain Michigan through tough times and are transforming how the rest of the nation views the state.”

Michigan Celebrates Small Business is presented in association with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center, Small Business Association of Michigan, the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Edward Lowe Foundation.

Information about the 2009 Michigan 50 Companies to Watch program can be found at <http://Michigan.CompaniesToWatch.org>. For information about Michigan Celebrates Small Business, visit <http://MichiganCelebrates.biz>.

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