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2016 Innovation Entrepreneur Awards

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Launched in 2012, the Innovation Entrepreneur Awards honor entrepreneurs and businesses with revenues under \$30 million for their contributions to the U.S. economy. Each year a panel of tech experts recognizes one executive, a small business and a startup for this award. Here are this year's winners:



Small Business Executive of the Year: Skip West

A member of CTA's Board of Industry Leaders and the CTA Foundation since 2014, West is also founding chairman of the association's Small Business Council. West found and sold his first company in 2003, then founded [MAXSA Innovations](#) where he serves as president. From its beginning, MAXSA Innovations has worked tirelessly to develop new and innovative products, most recently entering the world of solar energy and lighting. The company's products are designed to ensure protection, safety, comfort and enhance consumers' enjoyment of life. West also is an adjunct professor at George Mason University.



does so that anyone, anywhere, wearing any device can achieve superior results. Valencell's biometrics lab puts consumer products through rigorous testing on people with a wide range of skin tones, physical ability and ages to validate real world accuracy.



Startup of the Year: **RapidSOS**

After witnessing challenges in the national emergency communications infrastructure, **RapidSOS** formed with the mission of transforming the world of emergency response, communication and management. The company is dedicated to harnessing cutting-edge technology that will change the outcomes of millions of emergencies across the U.S. and globally. The RapidSOS team has developed mission-critical code at two national labs, developed back-end and mobile products for tech startups and helped commercialize more than 70 technology companies.

To learn more about the Innovation Entrepreneur Awards, visit CTA.tech/IEA. Find profiles of the IEA winners in the January issue of *i3*

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