



For Immediate Release
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Bank of America Merrill Lynch becomes first Diamond Sponsor to Colorado Companies to Watch

The long-term partnership will strengthen support for the CCTW program, now in its 10th year

Denver, CO – Colorado Companies to Watch (CCTW) and Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BAML) are pleased to announce that they have joined together to expand the reach and resources for the CCTW awards program as it kicks off its 10th anniversary this year.

This partnership was spurred by BAML making the first ever Diamond Level sponsorship contribution to the nonprofit CCTW program, which will hereafter be called, “Colorado Companies to Watch brought to you by Bank of America Merrill Lynch.”

“We’re excited to join as the Diamond sponsor of Colorado Companies to Watch,” said Jodi Rolland, Global Commercial Banking Market Executive for BAML. “The program is a natural fit for us because our missions are very similar – we’re both dedicated to advancing business, improving economic prosperity and helping build thriving communities.”

Since 2009, CCTW has honored and supported 450 Colorado-based, 2nd Stage companies for their performance in the marketplace, innovative products, unique processes and philanthropic actions. This year, the CCTW program will welcome another 50 excellent 2nd Stage businesses into the thriving CCTW community, bringing its total winner pool to 500.

“Because of our shared vision, Colorado Companies to Watch and Bank of America Merrill Lynch are going to make great partners,” said Rick Ninneman, CCTW Chairman of the Board. “For a decade, CCTW has recognized 2nd Stage companies as vital economic drivers, fueling the economic fire for the State of Colorado. Bank of America Merrill Lynch also recognizes the intrinsic value that comes from helping these companies overcome challenges and foster growth.”

He said: “It is also very fitting that Colorado Companies to Watch and Bank of America Merrill Lynch have joined together during CCTW’s 10th anniversary. There is a lot to celebrate this year, and we look forward to growing and expanding this partnership.”

The 2018 Colorado Companies to Watch brought to you by Bank of America Merrill Lynch Gala Awards Dinner will be held June 22. Applications for eligible businesses are due by Feb. 25 at midnight.

“Being able to champion Colorado Companies to Watch is especially rewarding because of their focus on 2nd Stage companies,” said Scott Vanderpool, Market Executive for Bank of America Merrill Lynch. “It’s true that 2nd Stage companies are overlooked, and it’s these companies that are quietly advancing business and our local communities – paving a path for sustainable growth. We’re thankful to Colorado Companies to Watch for recognizing the value of 2nd Stage companies and creating such a strong program to support this important, but often overlooked sector.”

Past CCTW winners include Maria Empanada (2017), Oakman Aerospace (2015), Cartasite (2014), PharmaJet (2011), Justin's Nut Butter (2009), Otterbox (2009).

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About Colorado Companies to Watch

Colorado Companies to Watch is an awards program honoring 2nd stage companies headquartered in the state of Colorado. The 450 companies that have been honored since the program’s inception demonstrate high performance in the marketplace or exhibit innovative products or processes. The program is designed to seek businesses from a wide range of industries throughout the state, not just the major metropolitan areas. The 50 companies selected each year make an astounding impact on Colorado's economy by collectively providing thousands of jobs and contributing millions of dollars in revenue. The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) launched the program in 2009 in conjunction with the Edward Lowe Foundation and valuable community partners from across Colorado. Visit ColoradoCompaniestoWatch.org, [facebook.com/ColoradoCompaniestoWatch](https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoCompaniestoWatch) and Twitter [@ColoradoCTW](https://twitter.com/ColoradoCTW).

About Bank of America Merrill Lynch

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