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News Release
For Immediate Release

PORT ST. LUCIE'S EXPERT SHUTTER SERVICES RECOGNIZED AS A 2018 FLORIDA COMPANIES TO WATCH

Port St. Lucie — The Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County, the City of Port St. Lucie and GrowFL are pleased to announce that Expert Shutter Services is among 50 statewide honorees selected for the 2018 Florida Companies to WatchSM. These companies were selected from more than 500 nominees for the award, hosted by GrowFL, a statewide economic development organization, in association with the Edward Lowe Foundation.

Expert Shutter Services' management team, competitive market position and strong community involvement were among several factors that put them in contention for the award. "These stand-out companies are all led by entrepreneurs, and have demonstrated their capacity and intent to grow," said Dr. Tom O'Neal, GrowFL executive director. "They also all have critical intellectual property or a niche position that gives them a competitive edge in their markets," he said.

"It is an honor for us to receive this award, said Mike Heissenberg, President of Expert Shutter Services. We would like to thank all of our employees, the Economic Development Council, St Lucie County, the City of Port St Lucie, and most of all, we would like to thank God for His blessings."

"This is a strong group of companies that deserve this special recognition given annually to the state's top second-stage companies," said Dr. Chris Morton, GrowFL Chairman of the GrowFL Advisory Board, CEO of NanoPhotonica and a 2015 Florida Companies to Watch honoree. Second-stage companies are defined as those with 6 to 150 full-time employees and between \$750,000 and \$100 million in annual revenue. There are many programs and incubators promoting start-up businesses; GrowFL is the only Florida program that focuses exclusively on second-stage companies.

“We couldn’t be prouder of Mike Heissenberg and the Expert Shutter Team, said Mayor Gregory J. Oravec. They are part of the Great American Success Story, transforming hard work and ingenuity into a garage-based start-up and then an award-winning profitable second stage company. We look forward to their continuing success and growth.”

The 50 companies named the 2018 Florida Companies to Watch generated nearly \$1 billion in revenue and added nearly 1,000 jobs between 2014 and 2017. Together, the companies project a 50 percent increase in revenue and 40 percent increase in job growth in 2018 compared to 2017.

Expert Shutter Services will be officially recognized February 9, 2019 at the Straz Performing Arts Center in Tampa, FL with the statewide honorees at the 2018 Florida Companies to Watch event.

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About Expert Shutter Services

Expert Shutter Services has been proudly providing Treasure Coast homes and businesses with the highest quality in hurricane shutters since 1986. Hurricane shutters are a natural component of any building in this severe storm-prone area. The company provides installation for a number of storm shutter types, and manufactures the Nautilus Rolling Shutter System and accordion storm shutters. www.expertshutters.com

About GrowFL

GrowFL provides strategies, resources and support, including strategic research and peer-to-peer CEO mentoring and leadership development, to second-stage Florida companies. Created by the Florida legislature in 2009 and grounded in the philosophy of Economic Gardening® — growing existing businesses in a community, region or state — GrowFL is a critical component of the state’s economic development strategy and Florida’s entrepreneurial ecosystem. GrowFL is certified by the National Center for Economic Gardening through the Edward Lowe Foundation. www.growfl.com

About the Edward Lowe Foundation

Established in 1985, the Edward Lowe Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization that supports entrepreneurship through research, recognition and educational programs, which are delivered through entrepreneur support organizations (ESOs). The foundation focuses on second-stage companies — those that have moved beyond the startup phase and seek significant, steady growth. In addition, the foundation has a second mission of land stewardship and is committed to preserving the natural resources and historically significant structures at Big Rock Valley, its 2,000-acre home in southwest Michigan.

About the City of Port St. Lucie

The City of Port St. Lucie is proud to be a hometown where people live, learn, work and play, and celebrate all of life’s opportunities. With over 189,000 residents, Port St. Lucie is Florida’s eighth largest city by population (South Florida’s 3rd largest city). The City occupies an area of 120 square miles in St. Lucie County on Florida’s east coast, about 50 miles north of West Palm Beach, half way between Miami and Orlando. The City provides most traditional municipal services including law enforcement, water and sewer, and public works. For more information, please visit www.cityofpsl.com.

About the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County

The EDC is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting economic vitality in St. Lucie County through the attraction, retention and expansion of businesses in the community. The EDC works in partnership with local governments and the private sector to advance its goals of creating more and better-paying jobs for residents, broadening the tax base and improving St. Lucie County’s economic quality of life. Contact the EDC at 772.336.6250 or www.youredc.com.