

# KAST awards innovators

**DARRYL POLLOCK**  
Star Reporter

The Kootenay Association for Science and Technology Spirit of Innovation Awards took place May 22 at the Prestige Hotel in Nelson.

The award categories were Most Promising Emerging Company, Innovative Organization Award, Innovator Award and Innovative Company Award.

"When you attend these types of events you get a feeling of how diverse the region is," said Nelson Mayor John Dooley.

Four finalists were selected for each category, but in the end, only four awards could be given out.

Those recipients were: AC Global Systems, who won the Most Promising Emerging Company

award for their anti-theft and emergency shut down GPS tracking devices for the trucking industry.

"There is no I in team and we have an outstanding team of committed individuals," said Shaun Ashman, company president.

The winner of the Innovative Organization Award went to the Centre for Innovative & Entrepreneurial Leadership for their assessment process and corresponding software for community development planning.

The winner of the Innovator award was given to Selena Davis for PULSE, her web-based, personalized, patient education program for the management of cardiovascular disease risk.

"The ability to get the right information to the right person at the right

time is paramount to the quality and improvement of health care," said Davis.

"It's an incredible feeling to be presented with such an award for the work that you're doing," she added.

The last award, Innovative Company Award went to D-Pace for their charged particle transport system and components for the worldwide particle accelerator market.

The night was complimented with a four-course dinner and a live band.

"All our goals were exceeded," said Kelvin Saldem, KAST's executive director.

"We got more nominations and more people in attendance than last year so every goal was exceeded and we are extremely happy," he added.



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Darryl Pollock photo



## KAST HONOUREES —

Above, Matt Pommer, left, KAST chair, and Audrey Repin, right, with the Columbia Power Corporation, present the award for Innovative

Company to a representative from D-Pace at the KAST Spirit of Innovation

Awards last week in Nelson. Right Selena Davis, from PULSE, wins the Innovator Award.

## INNOVATION AWARDS

# KAST awards big biz thinkers

By **FRAM DINSHAW**  
Weekender Staff

The food, wine and accolades flowed freely last Thursday night at the Kootenay Association for Science and Technology Gala, held at Nelson's Prestige Lakeside Resort, and drawing nominees from Trail, Grand Forks, Rossland and Nelson.

The evening's winners were AC Global Systems from Trail, which won the 2008 Most Promising Emerging Company Award. They specialize in GPS tracking and security features for the trucking industry.

They were joined by Nelson's Centre for Innovative and Entrepreneurial Leadership or CIEL, who develop software and run assessments to assist community development planning. CIEL won the Innovative Organization Award.

D-Pace, again from Nelson, a particle accelerator manufacturer that supplies components to the global market won KAST's Innovative Company Award.

Nelson's Selena Davis won the 2008 Innovator Award.

Davis is a self employed Health Informatics Consultant who developed an online program called Pulse, which enables heart patients to access personalised information on their condition that's entered by medical professionals.

"I'm amongst incredible talent, it's an honour to be called an innovator and be recognised for the work I do," Davis said.

The KAST Awards were established to encourage local innovations in the science and technology field across the Kootenays. 