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## **Isle of Wight based company scoops major Customer Contracts and Industry Award.**

It has been an exciting September for RF Engines Ltd (RFEL), the electronics design company based at the Innovation Centre on the St. Cross Business Park in Newport, Isle of Wight.

The company has had its best monthly order intake in its history, receiving contracts during September alone, for almost \$1,000,000 (£700, 000) and has also been recognised by the European Electronics industry as the 'Start Up Company of the Year', the equivalent of the electronic industry's 'Oscars'.

The company specialises in advanced electronic system designs that it sells to major customers in the defence, test instrumentation and communications markets, and most of the company's sales are to overseas clients.

Information on the nature of the latest contracts is limited for commercial and security classification reasons, but John Summers (Sales and Business Development Director) was able to disclose that " one of the major contracts is for a European advanced communications monitoring system and the second is for a new spectrum analyser test instrument design."

If that were not enough, and to complete a hectic September, the company has also been voted the winner of the 'Start Up of the Year' award at the prestigious European Electronics Industry Award evening held on 24 September.

The black tie gala evening was held at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London's Park Lane, and was attended by over 700 leaders from the European electronics industry.

The award was hotly contested, and applied to European companies who had commenced trading within the last 5 years. The judging criteria included the company image, the originality of the product range, a clear corporate business plan and the likelihood of sustained long-term commercial success.

In receiving the award, John Summers paid tribute to the 'team effort' that had enabled the company to succeed 'through one of the toughest periods that the electronics industry has ever experienced.'

RF Engines was formed approximately three years ago as a spin-out from Libra Design Associates, a highly successful electronics design consultancy company run by John Lillington, who is now the Chief Executive and Chief Technical Officer for RF Engines. The company currently has 13 employees, most of whom previously lived and worked on the Island, and the intent is to continue to recruit the specialist electronic design skills that are required, from the Island wherever possible.

Commenting on the contract successes, John Lillington stated: "We are particularly pleased that a UK high technology company can compete internationally and win, in such a specialist technology area. We still do have world beating entrepreneurial talents in the UK, but these individuals and companies need to continue to be given selective government support in the very early formative stages. For example, we have benefited tremendously from the DTI's SMART awards that we have been given, that have helped us develop our technology into a range of world class products."

Mike King, Enterprise & Investment Director for the Isle of Wight Economic Partnership said, "This award for RF Engines is a testament to what can be achieved when you combine great ideas, with skills, expertise and the right environment. The Innovation Centre was set up to nurture dynamic young businesses through the early years of trading, providing high quality accommodation, facilities and business support. We are proud to have played a part in RFEL's success."

## **RF Engines**

RF Engines Limited (RFEL) is a UK based designer, providing high specification signal processing cores and FPGA based board solutions in the defence, communications and instrumentation markets. Applications include base stations, wireless and wireline broadband communications systems, satellite communications systems, test and measurement instrumentation, as well as defence systems. More specifically it is a solutions provider for projects requiring complex front end, real time, wide and narrow band, flexible channelisation. RFEL provides a range of standard cores covering multiple FFT and unique PFT techniques, as well as system design services for specialist applications.

For further information, please see the website at [www.rfel.com](http://www.rfel.com) or contact RF Engines at Innovation Centre, St Cross Business Park, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5WB, Great Britain. Tel +44 (0) 1983 550330. E-mail [info@rfel.com](mailto:info@rfel.com).

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