



## **On the Bright Side: Otsego Chamber honors local manufacturer, firm**

September 15, 2009 12:00 am

— By Denise Richardson  
Staff Writer

A Richfield Springs architectural firm and an Oneonta manufacturer have been recognized by the Otsego County Chamber for annual business awards.

James Jordan Associates, Architects, was named recipient of the Otsego County Chamber/KeyBank Annual Small Business Award, a media release issued Monday said.

Ioxus Inc., which develops and produces ultracapacitors, has been selected to receive the Otsego County Chamber/The Daily Star Annual Breakthrough Award.

Small business and innovation are the backbone of the nation's economy, said Rob Robinson, president and chief executive officer of the Otsego County Chamber, commenting on the significance of the awards.

James Jordan, architect and company owner, said the business award was a vote of confidence by the Chamber and the result of work by the architectural firm's staff.

“It's really an honor,” Jordan said Monday afternoon. “It's 25 years of hard work.”

Thor Eilertsen, chief technology officer at Ioxus Inc., said the Breakthrough Award is meaningful because it highlights the company's efforts to develop and market products and to become an employer in the area. The firm began manufacturing in late April, he said.

“This award is absolutely amazing for us,” Eilertsen said Monday. “We're very proud.”

The awards will be presented at the 10th annual small business banquet at The Otesaga Resort Hotel in Cooperstown on Thursday, Oct. 8.

James Jordan Associates, Architects, is known for its educational facility planning and design, the Chamber release said.

About 75 percent of the firm's work has been school buildings and renovations, Jordan said, and in the 25 years since he bought the business from his father, Myron, the firm has worked on more than 30 major building projects in the area. The firm's staff includes four registered architects, Jordan said, and clients have been from communities across the state.

"We are so proud to be acknowledged and honored in our home county," Jordan said in the release. The award was a surprise that he still found "unbelievable" four days after being told about it, he said Monday.

Jordan and his staff are known throughout the Northeast but contribute to Otsego County in many ways, including through community events and activities, Robinson said. Jordan serves on the boards of the Otsego County Development Corp. and the county Industrial Development Agency, Robinson said, and also served six years on the Chamber board. The Daily Star Breakthrough Award celebrates the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation.

Ioxus, a subsidiary of Custom Electronics in Oneonta, is the only company that develops, manufactures and develops innovative ultracapacitor technologies entirely in the United States, company officials said. The devices are environmentally friendly and can be used in a range of applications, from hand-held electronics to industrial and automotive needs.

"In the selection of Ioxus, we couldn't find a better company that meets the criteria of cutting edge, innovation that has the potential to markedly impact our region," Robinson said.

"Ioxus is everything we dreamed of when we created the award four years ago."

Ioxus produces devices for the military, transportation and alternative energy markets. Custom Electronics Inc. has supplied commercial and military clients with capacitors and integrated electronic assemblies since 1964.

Eilertsen said Ioxus has 19 employees and plans to expand. Ioxus is working with a forklift manufacturer to increase efficiency and life of battery packs, he said, and other applications under development are focused on safety in the utility market, such as devices for wind turbines.

"We're trying to break into markets that really don't exist," Eilertsen said.

"Applications are really endless."

The Oct. 8 banquet will present a 5:45 p.m. reception and a 7 p.m. dinner. The cost is \$52.50 per person, or \$500 for tables of 10 diners, and reservations are required. For more information, call Pam Ferguson at the Chamber office at 432-4500, ext. 201, or send e-mail to [pam@otsegocountychamber.com](mailto:pam@otsegocountychamber.com).