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Inc. Magazine and Winning Workplaces Recognize Sky Factory as one of the Top Small Employers with Exceptional Workplaces

Winners Announced Today in Inc. Magazine

Fairfield, IA, June 7, 2010 – *Inc.* magazine and Winning Workplaces today announce the winners of the 2010 Top Small Company Workplaces competition – the best small and mid-sized places to work in the country – in *Inc.*'s June issue. The magazine features the 20 winners, which range from the New York Jets professional football team to Patagonia, the outdoor clothing designer and retailer. Fairfield, Iowa's Sky Factory is among the top 20 winners and is one of four companies profiled in the June issue of *Inc.* magazine.

Winning Workplaces and *Inc.* received nearly 500 completed applications for the contest. A national panel of experts in leadership and small to mid-sized business judged the finalists based on specific metrics and qualitative assessments of their success in creating the kind of workplaces that engage employees and deliver successful results.

"This year's winners show that the quality of the workplace can be a competitive advantage. I'm amazed at how well they have come through the recession. Clearly, their commitment to their



values and people practices are an important part of this success," said Gaye van den Hombergh, President of Winning Workplaces.

Judges comments about what makes Sky Factory special include: Despite major declines in new construction in most domestic markets in 2008 and 2009, the company grew revenues both years. This is perhaps more amazing considering that leadership runs the firm entirely by consensus, involving all 34 employees in all major decisions. Also notable for a company of its size is that The Sky Factory offers all of its educational programs – on topics including financial literacy, architecture and business writing – in-house.

"People want employers who care for and challenge them. And they want those employers to be financially healthy so they can keep caring for and challenging them far into the future. The 2010 Top Small Company Workplaces do just that. Their stories, in the June issue of *Inc.* magazine, are models of smart management and enlightened leadership," said Jane Berentson, Editor-in-Chief of *Inc.* magazine.

This is the eighth consecutive year that Winning Workplaces, the Evanston, IL-based nonprofit organization, has recognized those firms that attribute much of their business success to their commitment to exemplary people practices and outstanding workplace cultures.

To read the 2010 Top Small Company Workplaces report, please go to www.inc.com.

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About Sky Factory

The Sky Factory, LC creates authentic *Illusions of Nature*[™] that transform interior spaces. Signature products include **Sky Factory Luminous SkyCeilings**[™] and **Luminous Virtual Windows**[™]. Sky Factory's new **Digital Cinema** product line uses high-definition video footage, allowing viewers to experience the events, moods and movements of nature with unprecedented realism.

About Inc. Magazine

Founded in 1979 and acquired in 2005 by Mansueto Ventures, *Inc.* magazine (www.inc.com) is the only major business magazine dedicated exclusively to owners and managers of growing private companies that delivers real solutions for today's innovative company builders. With a total paid circulation of 724,110, *Inc.* provides hands-on tools and market-tested strategies for managing people, finances, sales, marketing and technology.

About Winning Workplaces

Winning Workplaces (www.winningworkplaces.org) is an Evanston, IL-based not-for-profit, whose mission is to help the leaders of small and midsize organizations create great

workplaces. Founded in 2001, Winning Workplaces serves as a clearinghouse of information on workplace best practices; provides seminars and workshops on workplace-related topics; and, inspires and awards top workplaces through their annual Top Small Company Workplaces initiative.