

~ **PRESS RELEASE** ~

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 27, 2013

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Check Corporation is honored as one of the 2013 “Michigan 50 Companies to Watch”

Troy – Check Corporation has been recognized as one of the 2013 “Michigan 50 Companies to Watch,” an awards program sponsored by the Edward Lowe Foundation and presented by Michigan Celebrates Small Business.

Check Corporation will be honored at an awards ceremony during the ninth annual Michigan Celebrates Small Business event, May 2, 2013 in Lansing, Mich.

Check Corporation's greatest strength lies in one word, innovation. Our founder and CEO, Robert Check, was diagnosed with breast cancer. As the chemotherapy medications circulated through his bloodstream and his body temperature decreased, he had an epiphany; introduce his company's flexible heating elements for aftermarket seat heaters into the medical recliner marketplace. The innovation created a new market dominated by Check Corporation, a Michigan company. Continued examples of product innovation include the introduction of medical controller power supply, pendants, IV bag warmers and other end user medical chair comfort applications which bring better care to those people who desperately need it.

These seat heater applications require a control module to operate the system. For 15 years, Check Corporation followed the strategy of many US companies by purchasing electronics off shore. Because of many logistics and quality issues, in 2009 Check reversed the domestic trend by deciding to invest in its own electronics department. Within a year, Check celebrated assembling its first electronic controller. Quality and throughput immediately improved, and customers have enjoyed the just-in-time opportunity to purchase electronics from a Michigan-based company. After a plant tour, a local OEM automotive purchasing manager thanked Bob Check for leading the trend to bring manufacturing back-not only to the US-but back to Michigan. This control technology is now being manufactured in Troy at Check Corporation and offered in the OEM electronics marketplace.

Companies making it to the “Michigan 50 Companies to Watch” list are a remarkable group of second-stage companies. Defined as having 6 to 99 full-time-equivalent employees and generating \$750,000 to \$50 million in annual revenue or working capital

from investors or grants, these companies form the backbone of Michigan's economy. Representing all regions of the state and a diverse range of industries, companies like Check Corporation are known for their exceptional entrepreneurial leadership, creation of innovation or use of innovation in creative ways, and their sustainable competitive advantage.

Winners were selected by Michigan-based judges from the banking, economic development, entrepreneurship development, industrial and venture capital communities.

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Michigan 50 Companies to Watch is presented by Michigan Celebrates Small Business. Founding underwriters are the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, PNC Bank, Michigan Certified Development Corporation, Accident Fund Insurance Company of America and Dynamic Edge, Inc.

Contributing Underwriters are DTE Energy Foundation, Comcast Business Class, Michigan Credit Union League & Affiliates, Rehmann, Varnum Attorneys at Law, Consumers Energy, Comcast Spotlight and AARP.

Michigan Celebrates Small Business was founded by the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, U.S. Small Business Administration, Small Business Association of Michigan, Greater Lansing Business Monthly and Edward Lowe Foundation.

Information about next year's Michigan 50 Companies to Watch program can be found at [www.Michigan.CompaniesToWatch.org](http://www.Michigan.CompaniesToWatch.org). For information about Michigan Celebrates Small Business, visit [www.MichiganCelebrates.biz](http://www.MichiganCelebrates.biz).