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Independent ATM provider wins Entrepreneur of the Year winner

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The overall winner of the 2011 Sanlam/Business Partners Entrepreneur of the Year Awards was Spark ATM Systems MD, Marc Sternberg, selected from over 350 entrepreneurs who took part in this year's competition.



Marc Sternberg and his wife, Tanya, accepting his EOY Award at the Gala Dinner.

Steenberg founded the company in 2005 and has grown it into a national organisation with operational, sales and technical capabilities across South Africa. Today it employs 82 people and is South Africa's premier independent ATM provider, deploying convenience ATMs in retail, petroleum, convenience and hospitality locations.

"I am deeply honoured to have received this accolade. I believe that entrepreneurs should be celebrated and entrepreneurship developed and nurtured in South Africa, so this award is very important to me," says Steenberg.

"I accept this award on behalf of our entire company. Their total commitment to our mission has made it the incredible and dynamic company that it is today. Our company culture is one of passion, innovation and entrepreneurship and each one of our team contributed enormously towards me winning this prestigious accolade. I will therefore be sharing a significant portion of the R100 000 cash prize with my fellow employees."

Sternberg is passionate about the work entrepreneurs are doing to further the economic and social goals of South Africa.

According to Business Partners, SMEs contribute as much as 50% of South Africa's GDP, employ more than 60% of the country's labour force and create over 65% of South Africa's new jobs.

"This is a contribution that must be recognised and encouraged. I was most impressed by the calibre of the 16 finalists who all epitomised the essence of dedication and perseverance," he concludes.

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