

Spark ATM Systems MD Marc Sternberg Wins Prestigious Entrepreneur of the Year Award

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Spark ATM Systems Managing Director Marc Sternberg was honoured as the overall winner of the Sanlam/Business Partners Entrepreneur of the Year® Awards in Johannesburg on Thursday night. Over 350 entrepreneurs, with businesses range from engineering, manufacturing, communications and farming, took part in this year's competition.

Marc founded Spark ATM Systems in 2005 and the company has grown from humble beginnings 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", says Marc Sternberg. "I believe that entrepreneurs should be celebrated and entrepreneurship developed and nurtured in South Africa, so this award is very important to me."

"I accept this award on behalf of our entire company", says Sternberg. "Their total commitment to our mission has made Spark ATM Systems the incredible and dynamic company that it is today. Our company culture is one of passion, innovation and entrepreneurship and each and every 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 at Spark ATM Systems."

Sternberg is passionate about the work entrepreneurs are doing to further the economic and social goals of South Africa. According to Business Partners, SME's contribute as much as 50% of SA'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", says Sternberg. "I was most impressed by the calibre of the 16 finalists who all epitomised the essence of dedication and perseverance. Winning this award has been a true honour."

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