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Lotek CEO Jim Lotimer to receive Biodiversity Technology Pioneer award from American Computer Museum & MSU

Founder of Lotek Wireless Inc. will be awarded the 2011 Edward O. Wilson Biodiversity Technology Pioneer Award for pioneering modern fish and wildlife monitoring systems

Newmarket, ON: On October 6, Lotek Wireless CEO Jim Lotimer will join a distinguished group of inventors and innovators when he receives the 2011 Edward O. Wilson Biodiversity Technology Pioneer Award from the American Computer Museum at a special ceremony at Montana State University (MSU) in Bozeman, Montana. He has been selected to receive the award in recognition of his achievements in pioneering fish and wildlife monitoring systems and advancing biotelemetry technology.

Jim Lotimer is the founder of Lotek Wireless Inc., a Canadian company that has been designing and manufacturing high-tech monitoring systems for fish, birds and wildlife since 1984. Lotek (whose name is an abbreviation of "Lotimer Technologies") is internationally recognized in the scientific community for its radio, acoustic, archival, satellite and multi-mode monitoring solutions that allow researchers to track animals, birds and fish of almost any size in almost any environment.

"Technology is our trade, but our passion is the environment. We are giving voice to the world's fish, wildlife and birds, to try to understand and help manage from their perspective," said Mr. Lotimer. "I accept this recognition on behalf of all those who are engaged in contributing to biodiversity, and especially for the dedicated and outstanding people in the Lotek group of companies."

Innovations that Mr. Lotimer's company has introduced to the fish and wildlife research community over the past three decades have included: the first GPS collars for wildlife, digital coding techniques for tracking multiple transmitters on a single frequency, the first integrated acoustic/radio fish tags, and the miniaturization of many types of transmitters and dataloggers that are deployed on species around the world.

The technological advances that Mr. Lotimer's company introduced to scientists have enabled them to conduct such ground-breaking research as the 2006 work by Shaffer et al showing that the sooty shearwater seabird migrates nearly 40,000 miles a year, and the recent discovery of distinct migratory paths and homing "neighborhoods" of bluefin tuna and other species as reported by the international Census of Marine Life initiative. Lotek's innovations continue today: the company has recently introduced new wildlife collars equipped with video cameras, as well as numerous improvements in acoustic, radio, satellite and archival tracking technologies.

Named after the scientist known as the "father of biodiversity", the Edward O. Wilson Biodiversity Technology Pioneer Award is presented annually by the American Computer Museum and Montana State University to recognize scientific, technical and literary pioneers who have made significant contributions to the understanding and preservation of the biodiversity of life on Earth.

Past recipients of the Edward O. Wilson Biodiversity Award have included Sir Alec Jeffreys for his invention of DNA fingerprinting, and Dr. Lynn Margulis for her endosymbiotic theory and contributions to the understanding of evolution. The museum's Pioneer Awards have also been presented to such innovators as Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple Computers; Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web; Martin Cooper, inventor of the cell phone; Leroy Hood, inventor of the automated DNA sequencer; and Douglas Engelbart, inventor of the computer mouse and the graphical user interface (GUI) – among many others.

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