



Pacific Drilling CEO Chris Beckett, center, accepts the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Pacific Drilling CEO receives EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ 2014 Gulf Coast Area Award

Chris Beckett among exemplary entrepreneurs honored at program's gala event

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HOUSTON, Texas – Under the bright stage lights of a packed gala event, Pacific Drilling CEO Chris Beckett accepted the prestigious EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ 2014 Award in the category of Offshore Drilling on June 26.

“This is not an award for me by any means,” a modest Beckett told the crowd. “I think we all have the same kind of thoughts about the teams we’ve built, the achievements we’ve been able to get those teams to deliver through their efforts – not through ours. That’s probably

what I'm most proud of – putting together a fantastic team and letting them run the business for me. I have to say thank you to them.”

Winners of the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ Award in the Gulf Coast Area were revealed during a special celebration at Hilton Americas Hotel-Houston. Beckett was selected from a leading group of 30 regional finalists by an independent judging panel made up of previous winners of the award, leading CEOs, private capital investors, and other regional business leaders.

The EY awards program recognizes entrepreneurs who demonstrate excellence and extraordinary success in such areas as innovation, financial performance, and personal commitment to their businesses and communities.

In 2008, Beckett left a career with an established drilling contractor to create an ultra-deepwater drilling company. Sidestepping the traditional path of building a management team from oil services industry veterans, he developed a management team with subject matter experts from a variety of backgrounds.

Beckett's business model panned out. That initial 2008 team of 16 employees has since grown to more than 1,500 employees. Today, the company operates five drillships under customer contract, has one drillship mobilizing to begin drilling under client contract, and two drillships are under construction. Pacific Drilling's fleet of eight ultra-deepwater drillships will represent one of the youngest and most technologically advanced fleets in the world.

“EY has honored outstanding entrepreneurial leaders for the past 28 years,” said Todd Zuspan, EY Entrepreneur Of The Year program director for the Gulf Coast Area. “These business leaders are accomplished entrepreneurial leaders who have contributed a tremendous amount to the community and the economy.”

The Entrepreneur Of The Year Program honors entrepreneurs regionally in June, leading up to the EY National Entrepreneur of the Year Awards in November. As a regional award winner, Beckett is now a candidate for the national program. Award winners in several national categories, as well as the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year National Overall Award winner, will be announced at the annual awards gala in Palm Springs, Calif., on Nov. 15.