

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 8, 2024



**MONTANA
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

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Montana Chamber of Commerce Announces Winners of 'The Coolest Thing Made in Montana' Manufacturing Competition

HELENA, Mont. - October 8, 2024 – The Montana Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the winners of "The Coolest Thing Made in Montana" contest, a program created to celebrate and promote the innovation, craftsmanship, and economic impact of Montana's thriving manufacturing industry. After three rounds of voting and over 15,000 votes cast from Montanans across the state, two outstanding companies have been named winners in the small and large business categories: Rattlesnake Cable Company and Nomad Global Communications Systems (GCS).

"Montana consistently ranks as one of the top entrepreneurial states, and the Montana Chamber of Commerce is committed to keeping us there, said Todd O'Hair, president & CEO of the Montana Chamber. "The Coolest Thing Made in Montana contest highlights the strength and diversity of our economy. On behalf of the business community, congratulations to our inaugural winners, and thank you for choosing Montana as your place to do business."

More than 60 Montana-based companies were nominated for the competition, showcasing a wide range of locally-made products, from high-tech innovations to handcrafted goods. The contest, open to the public for voting, highlights the role manufacturing plays in Montana's economy, which according to the 2023 Montana Manufacturing Report by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, supported 22,700 jobs and contributed \$3.3 billion to the state's economic growth.

Small Business Winner: Missoula-based Rattlesnake Cable Company with four full-time employees, claimed victory in the small business category. Specializing in high-quality, custom hand-made guitar cables, Rattlesnake Cable Company is driven by the belief that every musician deserves exceptional equipment paired with equally outstanding customer service. Known for its premium craftsmanship and dedication to serving musicians around the world, the company has become a go-to brand for those seeking reliable and durable stage and studio cables.

"We are thrilled to be recognized as The Coolest Thing Made in Montana's small business category," said Hank Donovan, Co-Owner/Co-Founder of Rattlesnake Cable Company. "Our mission is to not only provide the best cables but to build strong relationships with our customers. This award is a testament to the hard work and passion we put into every product."

Large Business Winner: Nomad GCS in Columbia Falls earned the top honor in the large business category. With a workforce of over 300 skilled professionals, the company engineers and manufactures cutting-edge Connected Mobile Operations Centers (CMOCs) for defense, public safety, emergency operations, and telco organizations worldwide. Nomad's Tactical Command Vehicle (TCV) is a unique concept in the industry, designed with satellite and cellular connectivity, high ground clearance for off-pavement performance, and Nomad Total Command™ (NTC) software for vehicle management and automation. Trusted by federal, state, local, and private sector customers alike, the TCV reflects Montana's spirit of innovation, ingenuity, and resilience.

"To be named 'The Coolest Thing Made in Montana' by a large business is an honor," Nomad CEO Will Schmautz said. "Our Tactical Command Vehicle, and every customer solution delivered, represents the best of Montana engineering and manufacturing. Knowing that people statewide recognize our work is humbling, and a testament to the efforts of our stellar team for over two decades."

About "The Coolest Thing Made in Montana": This annual contest, organized by the Montana Chamber of Commerce, shines a spotlight on the state's manufacturing sector, from small local artisans to large industrial innovators. The contest brings together Montana's business community and the public to vote for the Made in Montana products that make the state proud. With the goal of fostering a strong manufacturing environment, the Montana Chamber continues to support and celebrate companies that are making a difference in Montana and beyond.

For more information about the winners and to explore all of the amazing companies that participated, please visit the Montana Chamber of Commerce website.

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About the Montana Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1937, the Montana Chamber of Commerce is the state's largest business advocacy organization serving its 2,000 members, from sole proprietors to publicly traded companies, and all industry sectors located throughout the 56 counties of the Treasure State.

The Montana Chamber is guided by Envision 2026, a 10-year strategic plan that aims to grow Montana's economy by improving the business climate, ensuring appropriate infrastructure investment, developing a skilled workforce, and promoting entrepreneurship.

For more information, visit: www.montanachamber.com