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## **Applied Optoelectronics, Inc. Founder, President and CEO, Dr. Thompson Lin Wins 2016 Technology Category EY Entrepreneur of the Year® for the Gulf Coast Area**

SUGAR LAND, Texas, June 21, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Applied Optoelectronics, Inc. (NASDAQ:AAOI), a leading provider of fiber-optic access network products for the internet datacenter, cable broadband, and fiber-to-the-home markets, today announced that Dr. Thompson Lin, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Applied Optoelectronics, Inc., received the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2016 Award in the Technology category in the Gulf Coast Area.

This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year® Award program. The award recognizes outstanding entrepreneurs who demonstrate excellence and extraordinary success in such areas as innovation, financial performance, and personal commitment to their businesses and communities. Dr. Lin was selected by an independent panel of judges, and the award was presented at a special gala event at the Hilton Americas - Houston on June 16, 2016.

"I'm very humbled to have been awarded this great honor. Entrepreneurship is centered on building and developing a great team, and AOI's team is second-to-none in our industry. I'm very proud to have the opportunity to lead such an outstanding group of over 2,700 talented and dedicated AOI employees who strive every day to develop innovative products that define and shape the technology industry."

Since 1986, EY has honored entrepreneurs whose ingenuity, spirit of innovation and discipline have propelled their companies' success, invigorated their industries, and benefited their communities. Now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year, the program has honored the inspirational leadership of such entrepreneurs as Howard Schultz of Starbucks Coffee Company, Robert Unanue of Goya Foods, and Mindy Grossman of HSN. Recent US national winners include Reid Hoffman and Jeff Weiner of LinkedIn; Hamdi Ulukaya, founder of Chobani; and 2015 winners Andreas Bechtolsheim and Jayshree Ullal of Arista Networks.

As a Gulf Coast Area award winner, Dr. Lin is now eligible for consideration for the Entrepreneur Of The Year 2016 national program. Award winners in several national categories, as well as the Entrepreneur Of The Year National Overall Award winner, will be announced at the Entrepreneur Of The Year National Awards gala in Palm Springs, California, on November 19, 2016. The awards are the culminating event of the Strategic Growth Forum TM, the nation's most prestigious gathering of high-growth, market-leading companies. The US Entrepreneur Of The Year Overall Award winner then moves on to compete for the World Entrepreneur Of The Year Award in Monaco, June 2017.

### **Sponsors**

Founded and produced by EY, the Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards are sponsored nationally by SAP America, Merrill Corporation and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

In the Gulf Coast Area, sponsors also include BBVA Compass, Colliers International, DLA Piper, ADP, SolomonEdwards, Pierpont Communications and the Houston Business Journal.

### **Company Boilerplate**

#### **About Applied Optoelectronics**

Applied Optoelectronics Inc. (AOI) is a leading developer and manufacturer of advanced optical products, including components, modules, and equipment. AOI's products are the building blocks for broadband fiber access networks around the world, where they are used in the CATV broadband, internet datacenter, and fiber-to-the-home markets. AOI supplies optical networking lasers, components and equipment to tier-1 customers in all three of these markets. In addition to its corporate headquarters, wafer fab and advanced engineering and production facilities in Sugar Land, TX, AOI has engineering and manufacturing facilities in Taipei, Taiwan and Ningbo, China.

For additional information, visit [www.ao-inc.com](http://www.ao-inc.com). Applied Optoelectronics, Inc. and the related AOI logo are trademarks of Applied Optoelectronics, Inc.

#### **About EY Entrepreneur Of The Year®**

EY Entrepreneur Of The Year is the world's most prestigious business award for entrepreneurs. The unique award makes a difference through the way it encourages entrepreneurial activity among those with potential and recognizes the contribution of people who inspire others with their vision, leadership and achievement. As the first and only truly global award of its kind, Entrepreneur Of The Year celebrates those who are building and leading successful, growing and dynamic businesses, recognizing them through regional, national and global awards programs in more than 145 cities in more than 60 countries.

#### **About EY's Strategic Growth Markets practice**

EY's Strategic Growth Markets (SGM) practice guides leading high-growth companies. Our multidisciplinary teams of elite professionals provide perspective and advice to help our clients accelerate market leadership. SGM delivers assurance, tax, transactions and advisory services to thousands of companies spanning all industries. EY is the undisputed leader in taking companies public, advising key government agencies on the issues impacting high-growth companies and convening the experts who shape the business climate. For more information, please visit us at [ey.com/us/strategicgrowthmarkets](http://ey.com/us/strategicgrowthmarkets), or follow news on Twitter [@EY\\_Growth](https://twitter.com/EY_Growth).

#### **About EY**

EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. The insights and quality services we deliver help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. We develop outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all of our stakeholders. In so doing, we play a critical role in building a better working world for our people, for our clients and for our communities.

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