



TRIBUTE TO FRANK G. BERLIN SMALL BUSINESS AWARD FINALISTS

FINALIST | INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

PPi Technologies Group

CHARLES MURRAY, CEO

R. Charles Murray first moved to the United States in 1979 to attend Michigan State. Returning later to start a small company in Chicago, the cold weather inspired a relocation to Sarasota. Charles and his wife and son founded PRO-FILE® Packaging, Inc. (PPiTechGroup) in 1996. With roots in contract packing and delivering creative packaging concepts to market, Murray never doubted that the future of the packaging industry would come in the form of his StandUp pouch with a zipper or spout. At the beginning, PPiTechGroup packaged products at a rapid 120 pouches per minute. Today the company is able to package 1,100 pouches per minute and fill them at 500 per minute. PPiTechGroup manufactures the StandUp pouch, tray, single dose and end-of-line systems to fill and pack products to small and multi-national food and beverage firms. Under its Redi-2-DrinQ and ShotPak brands, the company manufactures and fills their own products in pouches: focusing on water, alcohol and spirits.

In coming weeks, new products are slated for national launch: the new Htwo Hydrogen water, which offers both hydration and an energy boost with no additives, sugars or preservatives. A new insect repellent for those working and playing outdoors has potential as well. "If it's in a box or bottle," Murray likes to say, "We can put it in a pouch." The world is taking note of PPiTechGroup's accomplishments. Statewide economic development program Growl named PPiTechGroup one of 50 Florida Companies to Watch last year. Ernst & Young recognized Murray as an Entrepreneur of the Year in distribution and manufacturing in 2013. Holding over 175 patents, the company expects growth. PPiTech has a new home in a facility with production capabilities of 1 billion pouches per year. The company has grown to 48 valued employees, is home to a play area for pool, table tennis, reading and a 9-hole golf course designed by employees. Murray is proud that PPiTech has remained a family business with his son, daughter, stepson and several nephews as part of his talented team. 1712 Northgate Boulevard; 941.359-6678; www.ppitechnologies.com

"Our goal is to keep every customer happy and the message to employees is very clear, the customer is King. Our aim is to deliver machines and products that are above average and allow our customers to lead the industry and markets they participate in. The range of machine models offered is truly global stretching from Germany, Japan, Korea, South Africa and Italy. New products being packed have a common theme in that they contribute to peoples lifestyle in a positive way." **Charles Murray**

