



Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston

1 Riverway, Suite 1700 Houston TX 77056 E: info@iaccgh.com

Content

Special Feature: IACCGH Honorees at the Greater Houston Business Procurement Forum Annual Awards

IACCGH Open Forum Business Hour

Upcoming Events

Innowatts Charts a Bold Path in Transforming the Energy Industry



Innowatts, leads the charge in transforming the energy industry.

Innowatts, a dynamic AI-driven energy data and analytics technology company, rounded off 2023 by receiving the Technology Firm of the Year accolade at the recent Greater Houston Business Procurement Forum Annual Award Ceremony.

This recognition serves as a testament to the company's remarkable journey, under the leadership of CEO **Siddhartha Sachdeva**, propelling Innowatts to the forefront of transformative change within the energy industry.

Confronting obstacles head-on, Innowatts proactively addressed challenges including the gradual adoption of technology in utilities and overcoming regulatory roadblocks. Sachdeva emphasized the importance of educating stakeholders on the value of granular energy data, highlighting that "Continuous education plays a pivotal role in demonstrating the transformative potential of data analytics within the utility landscape."

A crucial factor to Innowatts' success is its global outlook, gained through working with customers across multiple regions and markets. This strategy has not only facilitated key learnings, but also enabled the cross-pollination of insights and accelerated innovation within the company. Sachdeva emphasized, "Our global approach allowed us to learn from diverse regions, enriching our technological leadership and contributing to a more interconnected energy landscape."

In a bid to increase usage of energy data to enable consumers to better understand their usage drivers and confidently drive energy transition, Innowatts has open sourced its platform for utilities and consumers alike.

Sachdeva highlighted the company's commitment to technological leadership, emphasizing active learning from extensive energy data for enhanced predictions. He asserted, "Our open-source initiative aims to break down financial barriers, ensuring that data-driven insights are accessible to all, fostering innovation across the industry."

Another key element to Innowatts' growth has been its commitment to diversity. Headquartered in Houston with additional teams based in India and Ireland, diversity has become a cornerstone within Innowatts, positively impacting the development of the company's AI analytics. Sachdeva emphasized its role in crafting ethical and effective AI systems, ensuring fairness and comprehensive perspectives. He noted, "Diversity is not just a checkbox; it's fundamental to building ethical & fair AI that addresses the diverse needs of our global community."

Innowatts' recent recognition as the Technology Firm of the Year at the Greater Houston Business Procurement Forum Annual Award Ceremony signifies a significant milestone in the company's history. Sachdeva sees this honor as an opportunity to contribute more to the city of Houston, fostering collaboration and showcasing Innowatts' capabilities to local energy companies.

Recognizing the Indo American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston's role, Sachdeva appreciates its open collaboration approach, a factor contributing to Innowatts' success. He stated, "The Chamber has played a crucial role in creating a supportive environment for businesses and professionals, fostering collaboration that goes beyond boundaries."

Looking forward, Sachdeva envisions the strategic utilization of data as the linchpin of the energy industry's future. As electricity powers the global economy, strategic data use, actionable insights and analytics will propel the sector's economic growth while enhancing sustainability.

Siddhartha Sachdeva's insights offer a compelling narrative of Innowatts' transformative journey and its ongoing commitment to technological innovation, diversity, and collaborative partnerships, shaping the future of the energy industry. Innowatts continues to stand as a beacon of innovation, charting a bold path in transforming the energy sector for a more sustainable and interconnected future.

WALLIS BANK: EMPOWERING BUSINESSES, BRIDGING COMMUNITIES



"It's always good to be recognized, especially in our community. This award inspires us to do more for the community and helps us gauge that we are making a positive impact," Wallis Bank CEO, Asif Dakri.

In a significant accomplishment, Wallis Bank was presented the esteemed Access to Capital Award at the Annual Awards Ceremony of the Greater Houston Business Procurement Forum. This recognition underscores the bank's dedication to excellence and its pivotal role in fostering the growth of small businesses.

Established in 1906 and under current ownership since 1991, Wallis Bank stands as a beacon in the community banking landscape. As a minority-owned bank, it has been actively contributing to the growth and vitality of the Greater Houston area, particularly focusing on small businesses since 2011.

"We are a small community bank with a big vision," expressed **Rajiv Bhavsar**, National Head of Hospitality Lending at Wallis Bank. "Our mission is deeply rooted in serving the community and supporting small businesses in Houston and the surrounding areas. The Access to Capital Award reaffirms that we are on the right track," added Bhavsar.

The significance of the award resonates with Wallis Bank's mission and values, which center around community service and fostering the growth of small businesses. Being recognized in the community motivates the bank to continue its efforts towards community development and support for small businesses.

"It's always good to be recognized, especially in our community. This award inspires us to do more for the community and helps us gauge that we are making a positive impact," stated Wallis Bank CEO, **Asif Dakri**.

Wallis Bank has been consistently named the number 1 SBA lender in Houston. This recognition places Wallis Bank at the pinnacle of SBA lenders in the Houston district, instilling a sense of pride in its pivotal role in nurturing the growth of small businesses.

The impact of Wallis Bank extends beyond awards and recognition. By actively participating in SBA programs such as SBA7(a) and SBA 504, the bank has been a crucial ally for small businesses seeking financing. These programs provide essential support, enabling businesses to access up to \$5 million in loans, thus fostering their growth.



Celebrating Success: Wallis Bank accepting the Access to Capital Award at the Greater Houston Business Procurement Forum's Annual Awards Ceremony.

The Bank's contribution to improving access to capital is not just limited to financial support but extends to educational initiatives. Wallis Bank hosts seminars and training sessions, collaborates with SBA offices, and engages with local chambers of commerce to provide valuable insights and opportunities for small business owners and entrepreneurs.

"We are planning to host several seminars this year, collaborating with organizations like the Indo American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH). These initiatives aim to empower entrepreneurs with knowledge and resources to navigate the complex world of business," shared Bhavsar.

Wallis Bank's commitment to supporting local businesses is further emphasized by its expansion plans with a new location in Sugarland opening in summer of 2024 and exploring opportunities in Dallas, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Atlanta. The bank continues to reach more communities and provide vital financial support. "Collaboration with the IACCGH has been instrumental in achieving these goals. The Chamber's extensive network and events have facilitated connections, brought in foot traffic, and enhanced the bank's outreach to the community," Bhavsar added. "Their events and initiatives have been beneficial in reaching out to more businesses and individuals. It's a mutually beneficial partnership that aligns with our mission," the SVP of Wallis Bank affirmed.

As Wallis Bank progresses on its journey, the Access to Capital Award stands as both a symbol of acknowledgment and a source of encouragement. The bank remains committed to its core values, actively contributing to the community's prosperity, and supporting the dreams of small business owners. With plans for further expansion and impactful programs, Wallis Bank stands as a financial institution dedicated to the success of the communities it serves.



R&S Oilfield, Inc.: A Journey of Resilience Toward Distinction

In the ever-evolving landscape of the oil field industry, R&S Oilfield Inc. proudly ascends, securing the prestigious title of Distributor of the Year from the Greater Houston Business Procurement Forum during their Annual Awards Ceremony. President **Bharat Patel** and Director of Business Development, **Veena Patel**, the guiding force behind the company's remarkable journey, shared insights into their resilience and strategic prowess that propelled them to this pinnacle.

Navigating the challenges of the pandemic, R&S Oilfield not only weathered the storms but emerged stronger, showcasing initiatives that set them apart in the competitive industry. Patel's strategic vision became evident as he highlighted the pivotal role of importing in the company's success. Despite a dip during the pandemic, R&S Oilfield bounced back, attributing their triumph to robust customer relationships, a focus on quality products, and top-notch on-time delivery.

Reflecting on the company's inception in 2007, Patels painted a vivid picture of humble beginnings in a garage. The journey from renting a warehouse to acquiring their own facility in 2012 symbolizes a commitment fueled by dedication and a laser-focused approach to meeting customer needs.

The three pillars of R&S Oilfield's success – honesty, customer service, and quality – were emphasized by Bharat Patel as integral to their strategy. Open communication with customers and adaptability to changing markets have been crucial to staying ahead in a dynamic industry.

"I believe the success of R&S Oilfield is deeply rooted in our commitment to honesty, unwavering customer service, and the relentless pursuit of quality. These pillars have not only guided our journey but have also allowed us to navigate through challenging times, such as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the supply chain. Our ability to adapt, maintain strong relationships with customers, and focus on delivering top-notch products has been instrumental in earning the prestigious title of Distributor of the Year."; said Bharat Patel, President of R&S Oilfield.

Addressing the pandemic's impact on the supply chain, Patel acknowledged the hurdles faced by the company. Strategic planning and maintaining sufficient inventory became their lifelines, helping R&S Oilfield with signs of improvement evident in 2021.

"The strategy implemented during COVID, amidst economic challenges not only within the oil and gas industry but across all markets, was one of adaptability. This involved anticipating which products consistently performed well for us and maintaining a steady product line despite delays and supply chain issues. Over the last couple of years, as COVID's impact lessened, we've been able to restore full operations. While there was a dipping point post-COVID,

we maintained stability for that six-month period until 2021 when we bounced back, witnessing increased activity, particularly in the oil and gas sector, with a growing customer base," added Veena Patel.

Beyond business success, R&S Oilfield Inc. actively contributes to the community in Houston, providing jobs and growth opportunities. Their impact extends further, supporting local manufacturers and fostering collaborations in Houston, Louisiana, and the Northeast.

"As members of the Indo American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston since 2021, R&S Oilfield values the chamber's role in creating connections within the industry and community," Patel expressed, underlining the chamber's invaluable support in navigating the complex business landscape.

The company's journey from humble origins to Distributor of the Year is a testament to their commitment to quality, customer service, and community impact. Patel's words resonate, encapsulating the ethos that propelled R&S Oilfield to the zenith of success in the oil field industry.



Bharat and Veena Patel of R&S Oilfield, Inc.: Accepting the Distributor of the Year Award - a testament to their company's excellence and commitment.



Leviticus "Vic" Cleveland, Director of Supplier Diversity, Inclusion & Sustainability at CenterPoint Energy received the Meritorious Achievement Award at The Greater Houston Business Procurement Forum Annual Awards. IACCGH welcomes returning member Centerpoint Energy as co-host of the IACCGH Small Business Series. We extend a warm welcome to Vic as a valued member of the Chamber, acknowledging his outstanding contributions to our shared success and growth.

IACCGH Open Forum

[READ MORE >>](#)

During the IACCGH Open Forum Business Hour on Dec .23, Aisha Fareed and Azmat Siddiqui shed light on the grand opening of the newest Tanishq store in Houston. The jewelry enthusiasts revealed exciting details about the venture, providing a glimpse into the rich heritage and modern designs that Tanishq, a TATA brand, is known for.

[READ MORE >>](#)

On Jan. 27, IACCGH Open Forum Business Hour featured a discussion with Siddhartha Sachdeva, CEO of Innowatts, a Houston-based company at the forefront of utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) in the energy sector. The company specializes in leveraging AI to optimize energy consumption data, aiming to revolutionize the energy sector.



M.D & Associates was presented the Award for the Professional Services Firm of the Year at the Greater Houston Business Procurement Forum Annual Awards.

MD & Associates: A Journey of Resilience & Community Commitment

M.D & Associates was presented the Award for the Professional Services Firm of the Year at the Greater Houston Business Procurement Forum Annual Awards. The honor recognizes the firm’s unwavering commitment to excellence and community service.

In an exclusive interview, **Swapan Dhairyawan**, a managing partner in the company, provided insights into the remarkable journey that led to this prestigious accolade.

“Approaching the venture with a businessman’s mindset, I found myself embracing more of an employee mentality, truth be told”, Dhairyawan reflects on the humble beginnings of MD & Associates. The journey commenced with a mere \$6000 on a credit card, showcasing the partners’ resilience as they ventured into uncharted territory. “Our initial client was a salon, marking one of our early milestones and a significant achievement. This success is noteworthy as not all small businesses thrive,” Dhairyawan marks a pivotal moment in their journey.

Facing the challenge of not having a physical office, the partners found a temporary solution in an insurance firm on Hillcroft. Detailing the journey, Dhairyawan explains, “four months from January to April were crucial for launching our venture.” He added, “from a humble single table, our workspace expanded into a fully-fledged office space, emblematic of MD & Associates’ unwavering determination.

The initial 300-square-foot space has now expanded to encompass the entire top floor of the same office building, totaling nearly 3000 square feet.”

Emphasizing the crucial role of teamwork in achieving success, Dhairyawan underscores the significance of MD & Associates’ dedicated and collaborative team. With members boasting over a decade of service, the firm prioritizes values such as flexibility, involvement, and a profound sense of ownership. These principles contribute to a work culture that nurtures success.

Reflecting on the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Dhairyawan details how MD & Associates prioritized safety while ensuring uninterrupted service. “Out of 11 or 12 people, six of them opted to come daily to work,” he shares.

The firm’s dedication to protocol adherence and vigilance ensured not a single staff member contracted the virus during this challenging period.

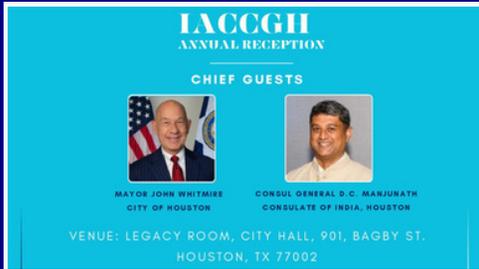
Highlighting the vital role of community service in their success, Dhairyawan points out that MD & Associates has been actively involved with the Indian Culture Center and various organizations since 2016. “This longstanding commitment has played a pivotal role in fostering trust within the community,” Dhairyawan mentions.

As MD & Associates revels in the recognition as the Professional Services Firm of the Year, Dhairyawan looks forward to a future marked by continued excellence, community service, and a steadfast commitment to their clients.



Upcoming Events

Feb.
13



IACCGH ANNUAL RECEPTION

Chief Guests
Mayor John Whitmire
Consul General D.C. Manjunath

Feb.
15



IACCGH Small Business Series

Co-Host - CenterPoint Energy and Wallis Bank

Keynote Speaker
Jason Wilson - Director
U.S. Commercial Service Houston

Feb.
25



IACCGH Tax Seminar

Panel of experts: Mahesh Desai, CPA.
Rimple Mashruwala, CPA.
Kershaw Khumbatta, CPA.
Arlene Good, IRS.
Moderator Swapan Dhairyawan, CPA.

Feb.
26



IACCGH Shell USA Inc. Distinguished Lecture Series Fireside Chat on "Transformational Leadership"

Dr. Renu Khator, Chancellor, University of Houston System, in conversation with Malisha Patel, Senior Vice President & CEO, Memorial Hermann Southwest and Sugarland Hospitals.

****For registration details email info@iaccggh.com indicating the event you would like to attend.**