

NEWS RELEASE

MINNESOTA

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ATEK Distribution in Minneapolis named SBA's Minnesota Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year

MINNEAPOLIS – The <u>U.S. Small Business Administration</u> has named ATEK Distribution, of Minneapolis, Minn., as SBA's Minnesota Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year. The business is owned by Jeffrey Anderson and is among SBA awardees being recognized ahead of <u>National Small Business Week</u> for their efforts to empower entrepreneurial success, create jobs and drive economic growth.

"The Minnesota District Office is proud to recognize Jeff Anderson, president and co-founder of ATEK Distribution as the 2025 Minnesota Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year. Jeff's leadership, dedication, and entrepreneurial spirit embody the values of perseverance and service that define our nation's veterans," said Brian McDonald, the SBA Minnesota District Director. "Through his commitment to innovation and business excellence, he has not only built a successful company but has also contributed to the strength of Minnesota's economy. We are honored to celebrate his achievements and the impact he continues to make in the veteran business community."

Anderson started his business in 2018 after more than 24 years in electrical manufacturing and distribution. ATEK Distribution has seen significant growth through leveraging SBA resources, including official status as a PRIME Contractor with the federal government. Prior to starting his entrepreneurial journey, Anderson served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he attributes learning the value of hard work, integrity, and a commitment to accomplishing the mission.

ATEK Distribution provides "Made in the USA" products and solutions to help reduce operation costs, and improve the health, safety, and well-being of employees and communities. This is primarily driven by the wholesale distribution of electrical construction materials, including wiring supplies, electrical light fixtures, EV charging stations, light bulbs, and solar and electrical power equipment.

In spring of 2021, Anderson connected with APEX Accelerators, an SBA resource partner, which assisted him in obtaining Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) certification. At least 5 percent of all federal contracting dollars each year are set aside for SDVOSB's, and SBA and APEX Accelerators procurement assistance has played a vital role in ATEK securing several government contracts, and obtaining status as a PRIME U.S. Government contractor. ATEK Distribution is currently working to secure their place on the GSA schedule.

Alongside contracting technical assistance, Anderson also participated in the 2023 cohort of SBA's T.H.R.I.V.E Emerging Leaders program, has a SCORE mentor, and has received several SBA loans to aid in the support and expansion of his business.

National Small Business Week 2025 will be held May 4-10 and will include a multiday virtual event open to all. Details on National Small Business Week, the virtual summit and registration are featured on www.sba.gov/NSBW and will be updated as additional information and activities are confirmed. Local events will be featured on www.sba.gov/events. On social media, follow the #SmallBusinessWeek hashtag for more about local awards and events.

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About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.