



News Release

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For Immediate Release

EY Announces Bret Biggart of Freedom Solar Power as an Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2023 Gulf South Award Winner

Entrepreneur Of The Year celebrates ambitious entrepreneurs who are building a better world

Austin, TX, June 21, 2023. – Ernst & Young LLP (EY US) today announced that Bret Biggart, CEO of Freedom Solar Power, an industry leader in turnkey solar installations, providing high-quality, cost effective, and reliable solar solutions for residential and commercial markets, was named an Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2023 Gulf South Award winner. The Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards program is one of the preeminent competitive awards for entrepreneurs and leaders of high-growth companies. Biggart was selected by an independent judging panel made up of previous award winners, leading CEOs, investors and other regional business leaders. The candidates were evaluated based on their demonstration of building long-term value through entrepreneurial spirit, purpose, growth and impact, among other core contributions and attributes.

“I am honored to be recognized for such a prestigious award,” said Biggart. “None of this would be possible without the incredible Freedom Solar team. I look forward to continuing to lead the solar revolution and to further strengthen our position as one of the nation’s leading and premier residential and commercial solar energy providers.”

For nearly four decades, EY US has honored entrepreneurs whose ambition, courage and ingenuity have driven their companies’ success, transformed their industries and made a positive impact on their communities. Entrepreneur Of The Year Award winners become lifetime members of a global, multi-industry community of entrepreneurs, with exclusive, ongoing access to the experience, insight and wisdom of program alumni and other ecosystem members in over 60 countries — all supported by vast EY resources. Since 1986, the Entrepreneur Of The Year program has recognized more than 11,000 US executives.

As a Gulf South award winner, Biggart is now eligible for consideration for the Entrepreneur Of The Year 2023 National Awards. The National Award winners including the Entrepreneur Of The Year National Overall Award winner will be announced in November at the [Strategic Growth Forum®](#), one of the nation’s most prestigious gatherings of high-growth, market-leading companies. The Entrepreneur Of The Year National Overall Award winner will then move on to compete for the **World Entrepreneur Of The Year®** Award in June 2024.

The Entrepreneur Of The Year program has honored the inspirational leadership of entrepreneurs such as:

- Andreas Bechtolsheim and Jayshree Ullal of Arista Networks
- Daymond John of FUBU
- Hamdi Ulukaya of Chobani, Inc.
- Holly Thaggard and Amanda Baldwin of Supergoop!
- Howard Schultz of Starbucks Coffee Company
- James Park of Fitbit
- Jodi Berg of Vitamix
- Joe DeSimone of Carbon, Inc.
- Kendra Scott of Kendra Scott LLC
- Reid Hoffman and Jeff Weiner of LinkedIn Corporation
- Sheila Mikhail of AskBio



Sponsors

Founded and produced by Ernst & Young LLP, the Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards include presenting sponsors PNC Bank, N.A.; SAP America; and the Kauffman Foundation. In the Gulf South, sponsors also include Colliers, DLA Piper, Marsh McLennan Agency, ADP, Pierpont Communications and vcfo.

About Entrepreneur Of The Year®

Entrepreneur Of The Year® is the world's most prestigious business awards program for unstoppable entrepreneurs. These visionary leaders deliver innovation, growth and prosperity that transform our world. The program engages entrepreneurs with insights and experiences that foster growth. It connects them with their peers to strengthen entrepreneurship around the world. Entrepreneur Of The Year is the first and only truly global awards program of its kind. It celebrates entrepreneurs through regional and national awards programs in more than 145 cities in over 60 countries. National Overall Award winners go on to compete for the **World Entrepreneur Of The Year®** title. Visit ey.com/us/eoy.

About EY Private

As Advisors to the ambitious™, EY Private professionals possess the experience and passion to support private businesses and their owners in unlocking the full potential of their ambitions. EY Private teams offer distinct insights born from the long EY history of working with business owners and entrepreneurs. These teams support the full spectrum of private enterprises including private capital managers and investors and the portfolio businesses they fund, business owners, family businesses, family offices and entrepreneurs. Visit ey.com/us/private.

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About Freedom Solar Power

Founded in 2007, Freedom Solar Power is an industry leader in turnkey solar installations, providing high-quality, cost-effective, reliable solar solutions for residential and commercial markets. Headquartered in Austin, Texas, Freedom Solar also has full-service offices in 11 markets across five states (Colorado, Florida, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia) and has installed commercial projects in 27 states. A Tesla Powerwall Certified Installer and the only SunPower® Master Dealer in Texas, Colorado and Florida, the firm has installed more than 191 megawatts of solar panels since 2007, ranking as a top ten solar installer in the US and awarded Sunpower's National Top Producer of the Year Award. Freedom Solar CEO Bret Biggart was recognized as an EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2023 Gulf South Award winner. Additionally, Freedom Solar ranked number 70 on the Inc. 5000 Regionals Southwest list of the fastest growing private companies in America. Freedom Solar has completed projects for numerous national and multinational corporate clients, including Whole Foods Market, Shake Shack, Office Depot, Holiday Inn Express, Home2 Suites by Hilton, The University of Texas at Austin and numerous automotive dealerships, such as Alfa Romeo, BMW, Chevrolet,

Ford, Maserati, Subaru and Toyota. For more information, visit <https://www.freedomsolarpower.com> or @freedomsolarpwr on Twitter and @freedom_solar_power on Instagram.