

Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists  
of the  
Province of Manitoba

# Leadership Award

presented to

**ED VAN HUMBECK**

B.Sc.(Electrical), P.Eng.

*Mr. Ed Van Humbeck, Chairman of the Board of Vansco Electronics, started his company with a vision 22 years ago. He perceived a growing need for electronics in industry as manufacturers and end users demanded more performance from their machines. With his wife Terry as an active partner, he started Vansco out of his house, initially supplying electronic solutions to local equipment manufacturers. Some of his first products were highly reliable electronic turn signal flashers, computerized controls for robotic machines, and environmental controls for plant growth rooms used in laboratories.*

*As the use of electronics continued to become more pervasive, Ed Van Humbeck positioned the company to take advantage of the growth potential. In 1980, he expanded out of his house, and since then, has continued to develop Vansco by more than 30% per year. This was accomplished by building up a world-class engineering group and a marketing team that now serves customers throughout much of North America and Europe. Vansco has always focused on new and innovative solutions for original equipment manufacturers. Its primary business has been in the Agricultural, Construction, Bus and Truck industries but Ed has not been averse to exploring other opportunities.*

*In 1988 Vansco contracted with Manitoba Hydro to finish the development of a Power Line Monitor that the then Microelectronics Center of Manitoba had been working on. Ed seized on this opportunity and it soon led to further work with Manitoba Hydro on a PC based platform for the control and protection of high voltage transmission systems. In 1995 it was determined that the PC based system was too expensive for widespread commercialization, so a team was assembled to develop a low-cost, hardware and software platform, around which a broad-line of Electrical Power Control Products could be created. The team's vision was to take advantage of next generation technology to leapfrog its competitors and provide electric utilities with advanced protection, monitoring and information systems that significantly improve performance while minimizing the costs of planning, operating and maintenance. Some 20 utilities from across the Americas are already benefiting from this technology.*

*Another exciting innovation at Vansco Electronics is its advanced Multiplexed Control System for use on Buses and Highway Coaches. Ed points out that the Vansco Multiplex Module (VMM) system, created by a specially formed VMM team, provides several advantages to bus manufacturers and to the Transit Authorities and Fleets who run the buses. Several bus manufacturers have already put VMMs on test vehicles.*

*Currently Vansco employs 675 people, and has an engineering team of approximately 120 that includes a large contingent of Professional Engineers who graduated from the University of Manitoba. Ed Van Humbeck's vision has allowed Vansco to grow into a world class engineering and manufacturing company - a "Made in Manitoba" success story.*

March 6, 2001