FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NFSTC Recognized by Enterprise Florida with the 2011 Governor’s Business Diversification Award

LARGO, FL  September 6, 2011: The National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC) announced today that it has received the 2011 Governor’s Business Diversification Award from Enterprise Florida in the Business Expansion Mega Market category. The award recognizes organizations in Florida that invested in the local economy and created jobs in 2010, particularly in industries with high-wage potential or those targeted for economic development. NFSTC is among 18 organizations to be recognized and is the only one in the Tampa Bay area to be selected for this honor.

Factors that contributed to NFSTC’s selection include significant organizational growth, the launch of a subsidiary company, diversification of revenue sources, considerable contributions to the local economy and community outreach efforts. Enterprise Florida considered each organization’s commitment to investing in the community and efforts to improve and diversify Florida’s economy.

In 2009 and 2010, NFSTC received numerous competitive grants and contracts to provide forensic training programs to law enforcement, medical examiners and coroners, and Department of Defense personnel. This required NFSTC to expand its staff, adding 16 new positions in 2010. As an organization, NFSTC has grown 75% since 2009.

To further diversify its business, in September 2010 NFSTC and eight partnering organizations launched the Forensic Innovation Center, LLC (FIC), forming the cornerstone of a forensic technology sub-cluster in Largo, Florida. NFSTC is 90% owner of the FIC subsidiary in partnership with two other privately owned firms, Forensic Knowledge Partnership and Training Team Solutions. The FIC partners are working to redefine forensic intelligence services, centralize innovative direction for the industry and add to the business diversity and depth in Pinellas County, Florida.

“We are proud of our accomplishments over the past year. Everyone at NFSTC is dedicated to the organization’s mission and to giving back to the communities that support us,” stated Kevin Lothridge, NFSTC CEO. “A needed product combined with our solid business practices and committed staff will keep us growing.”

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NFSTC strongly believes in reaching out to local suppliers for goods and services that support facility and laboratory operations, training services and the administrative functions. In 2010, an estimated 79% of NFSTC’s general expenditures stayed within the Tampa Bay or Florida economy. NFSTC’s training and conference activities bring much needed revenue to the local area through transportation, accommodation and meal expenses for training and conference participants. In 2010, NFSTC brought an estimated 6,000 hotel room nights to the Tampa Bay area, which equates to nearly $1 million in additional revenue for the local economy.

This is the 28th year for the Enterprise Florida program. Awards will be presented in Tallahassee at the state’s annual Industry Appreciation Week (the third week of September).

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The National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation headquartered in Largo, Florida. NFSTC provides quality forensic services including training, assessment, technology assistance and evaluation to the justice, forensic science and military communities. The organization is funded through cooperative agreements and government contracts. [www.nfstc.org](http://www.nfstc.org)

For more information about Enterprise Florida's Governor's Business Diversification award, please visit: [http://www.eflorida.com/PressDetail.aspx?id=9172](http://www.eflorida.com/PressDetail.aspx?id=9172)