

# EY US Announces NetSPI CEO Aaron Shilts as an Entrepreneur Of The Year 2021<sup>®</sup> Heartland Award Finalist

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*Celebrating the 35th class of unstoppable entrepreneurs who transform the Heartland Region and beyond.*

**Minneapolis, Minnesota** – Ernst & Young LLP (EY US) announced that NetSPI CEO and President Aaron Shilts was named an Entrepreneur Of The Year<sup>®</sup> 2021 Heartland Award finalist. Now in its 35th year, the Entrepreneur Of The Year program honors unstoppable business leaders whose ambition, ingenuity and courage in the face of adversity help catapult us from the now to next and beyond.

Shilts was selected by a panel of independent judges. Award winners will be announced during a special virtual celebration

on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, becoming lifetime members of an esteemed community of Entrepreneur Of The Year alumni from around the world.

Entrepreneur Of The Year is one of the preeminent competitive award programs for entrepreneurs and leaders of high-growth companies. The nominees are evaluated based on six criteria: entrepreneurial leadership; talent management; degree of difficulty; financial performance; societal impact and building a values-based company; and originality, innovation, and future plans. Since its launch, the program has expanded to recognize business leaders in more than 145 cities in over 60 countries around the world.

“This recognition validates the incredible work our team is doing,” said Shilts. “NetSPI team members operate as entrepreneurs every day and it’s an honor to help lead and support some of the most brilliant people in cybersecurity.”

Regional award winners are eligible for consideration for the Entrepreneur Of The Year National Awards, to be announced in November 2021 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 EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year™ Award in June 2022.

## **About NetSPI**

NetSPI is the leader in enterprise security testing and attack surface management, partnering with nine of the top 10 U.S. banks, three of the world’s five largest healthcare companies, the largest global cloud providers, and many of the Fortune® 500. NetSPI offers Penetration Testing as a Service (PTaaS) through its Resolve™ vulnerability management platform. Its experts perform deep dive manual penetration testing of

application, network, and cloud attack surfaces, historically testing over 1 million assets to find 4 million unique vulnerabilities. NetSPI is headquartered in Minneapolis, MN and is a portfolio company of private equity firms Sunstone Partners, KKR, and Ten Eleven Ventures. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

## **Sponsors**

Founded and produced by Ernst & Young LLP, the Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards are nationally sponsored by SAP America and The Kauffman Foundation. In the Heartland Region sponsors also include Colliers International, Padilla, PNC Bank, SALO, LLC, and Twin Cities Business.

## **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 winners go on to compete for the EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year™ title. Visit [ey.com/us/eoy](http://ey.com/us/eoy)

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