



## **CITRINE LLC**

### **HONORED AS BRONZE STEVIE® AWARD WINNER IN 2024 AMERICAN BUSINESS AWARDS®**

Lakewood, CO – April 25, 2024 – Citrine LLC was named the winner of a Bronze Stevie® Award in the Fastest Growing Company of the Year – Up to 100 Employees category in The 22nd Annual American Business Awards® today.

The American Business Awards are the U.S.A.'s premier business awards program. All organizations operating in the U.S.A. are eligible to submit nominations – public and private, for-profit, and non-profit, large and small.

More than 3,700 nominations from organizations of all sizes and in virtually every industry were submitted this year for consideration in a wide range of categories. Citrine LLC was nominated in the Fastest Growing Company of the Year category for up to 100 employees.

Citrine was started just over 9 years ago by two engineers wanting to build a better business than those they had been a part of in the past. With Jeff Abbate and Shannon Rasmussen doing all the hard work of building Citrine from the ground up and teaching themselves the ins and outs of commercial and government contracting they formed a successful small business in Colorado. Wanting to do more, wanting to support as many employees and agencies as they could, they looked at the bigger picture. Jeff and Shannon put a small bug in people's ears about wanting to grow, looking for acquisitions and the possibility of teaming with another owner. The right person heard, and Elizabeth Poe answered. In early 2022 Elizabeth mentioned to her then CEO boss that she wanted to venture out and start or buy her own business, which had been a goal that Elizabeth had since 2015 herself. Her then, CEO boss knew of the likely fit with Elizabeth and Citrine and introduced them. Over the next 12 months, Elizabeth, Jeff, and Shannon worked to get to know each other, meet, negotiate and later nail down a deal that sold majority ownership of Citrine in 2023 in order to grow the business. Together they are providing their past performance knowledge, skills, and education to grow and lead a successful business. Citrine is now a certified Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB), Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB), Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone), and is pending their Women Owned Small Business (WOSB) certification as well.

As noted by the American Business Awards judges, Citrine LLC's rapid growth from its founding in 2015 to its expansion in 2022 and 2023 is notable, with significant increases in revenue, employee count, and government contracts, notably with the Department of Labor. While providing more specific data could bolster their achievements, their commitment to supporting veterans and their recognition as one of Colorado's Companies to Watch highlights their dedication to excellence and community impact.

Also noted by ABA judges, **Citrine is a great example of partnership driving progress!**

As the CEO of Citrine, I couldn't have said this better myself. Citrine is gracious to the American Business Awards, the judges, and our competitors for this honor. We commend all small businesses alike for pushing through the difficulty that small businesses face and adapting and overcoming the pressures of keeping up with large companies, fast paces, and growing competition. Congratulations to all the winners!

More than 300 professionals worldwide participated in the judging process to select this year's Stevie Award winners.

"While growth in much of the world economy has recovered slowly from the COVID-19 pandemic, the American economy continues to show remarkable resilience and growth," said Stevie Awards president Maggie Miller. "Our 2024 Stevie winners have contributed to that successful recovery through their innovation, persistence, and hard work. We congratulate all our winners in the 2024 ABAs and look forward to celebrating their achievements during our June 11 awards banquet in New York."

*Details about The American Business Awards and the list of 2024 Stevie winners are available at [www.StevieAwards.com/ABA](http://www.StevieAwards.com/ABA). Stevie winners will be presented their awards on June 11 in New York*

### **About Citrine LLC**

Citrine LLC is a certified Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB), Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB), and HUBZone firm, specializing in professional engineering design, construction period services, and commissioning. With decades of combined experience, Citrine offers a wide range of services, including detailed design, feasibility studies, commissioning at various levels, consulting, project management, and technical staffing support. Citrine's foundation rests on integrity and excellence, cultivated over years of professional reputation-building. We approach each project with dedication, adhering to schedules, delivering quality, and solving complex challenges. Our proven track record demonstrates expertise in innovation, efficiency, adaptability, quality, diversity, and leadership, ensuring successful client projects. Additionally, Citrine provides services related to construction management, inspections, assessments, audits, testing, planning, research and development, studies, cost estimating, and other engineering services. At Citrine, we envision a future where our name signifies quality and leadership in consulting.

