



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STERLING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY AGAIN NAMED TO FORBES LIST
OF AMERICA'S 200 BEST SMALL COMPANIES**

HOUSTON, TX — October 16, 2009 – Sterling Construction Company, Inc. (Nasdaq GS: STRL), ("Sterling" or the "Company"), today announced that it has again been named one of "America's 200 Best Small Companies" by Forbes magazine. Sterling is ranked #68, rising from position #86 in 2008. The entire list appears in the October 14, 2009 issue of Forbes. Online access is at:

http://www.forbes.com/2009/10/14/top-20-small-entrepreneurs-management-200-small-companies-09_land.html

To qualify for the Forbes list of the 200 Best Small Companies in America, candidates must have annual revenue of between \$5 million and \$750 million, be publicly traded for at least a year and have a stock price no lower than \$5. Rankings are based on earnings growth, sales growth and return on equity in the past 12 months and over five years. Forbes also compared candidates' stock performance with that of its industry peers.

Sterling's Chairman & CEO Patrick Manning said, "Making the list two years in a row is indeed a great honor, one we attribute to our entire staff because it is was achieved through their hard work and dedication."

Sterling is a leading heavy civil construction company that specializes in the building and reconstruction of transportation and water infrastructure in large and growing markets in Texas, Nevada and other states where there are bidding opportunities. Its transportation infrastructure projects include highways, roads, bridges and light rail and its water infrastructure projects include water, wastewater and storm drainage systems.

Contact:

Sterling Construction Company, Inc.
James H. Allen, Jr., CFO
Joseph P. Harper, Pres. & COO
281-821-9091

Investor Relations Counsel
The Equity Group Inc.
Linda Latman 212-836-9609
Lena Cati 212-836-9611