

The Moonman is not enough for entrepreneur eyeing Oscar

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by [Michael del Castillo](#), Technology & Innovation Editor
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The elite awards manufacturing startup long on the hunt for the prized Oscar contract hasn't given up on the deal just because the company already producing the trophies has been sold.

The Indianapolis-based St. Regis Crystal yesterday [acquired](#) the 74-year-old R.S. Owens & Company for an undisclosed amount. And David Moritz, the 30-year-old founder of New York-based Society Awards wants in on the action.

"I would have been interested in acquiring R.S. Owens & Company and there's no animosity," said Moritz whose company already makes the Sundance Film Festival awards, the American Film Institute awards, MTV's Moonman trophy, and dozens of other elite prizes, in an interview today with *Upstart Business Journal*. "And if St. Regis Crystal wants to do business, I'm still open."

Earlier this year, in an [interview](#) with *Upstart* Moritz mentioned that of the elite awards he'd been eyeing at the time, he'd managed to get the contract for all but one—you guessed it, the Oscars.

And although the prized prize slipped through his fingers this time, he's not giving up on the



David Moritz of the Society Awards. Mode Design Group

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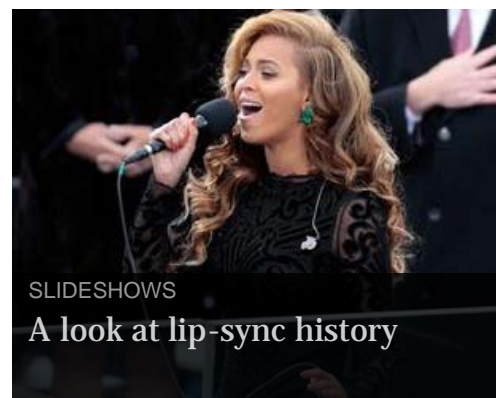
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deal.

“Some of the skill sets we have could be useful to them if we worked together, not just as intense competitors,” he told *Upstart*.

Founded in 2007 on a borrowed \$90,000 loan dispersed in \$20,000 increments from his grandfather, Moritz said the company was recently valued at \$3.4 million, and in 2012 generated \$4 million in revenue.

According to a [report](#) by the *Chicago-Sun Times*, St. Regis Crystal intends to lay off 95 R.S. Owens & Company employees on December 17, the same day the sale is complete.



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Michael earned his BA from Mercer University, along the way excavating a Roman bathhouse with the American School of Archaeology. Plus, he provided security at Oxford University, where he also studied literature and philosophy. He earned his MS from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism while training for and running in the New York marathon.

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