



PRESS RELEASE

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Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry Receives Manufacturer of the Year Award **Manitowoc Manufacturer Recognized with Special Award**

February 25, 2010, Milwaukee -- Eight Wisconsin companies received 2009 Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Awards for outstanding achievements in manufacturing. On Thursday, the winning companies were announced at a black-tie awards dinner and program at The Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee.

Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry Company, Inc. of Manitowoc was recognized as a 2009 Manufacturer of the Year and awarded an "Industry Perseverance" Special Award. The Special Award categories were determined by the judges based on information provided in the nomination forms.

The Manufacturer of the Year Awards recognize Wisconsin companies that demonstrate a commitment to business excellence which has a positive impact on the company and the state, making Wisconsin a better place to live, work and play.

"It was fascinating reading the many stories of how people in many different businesses started and grew their companies. It was also inspiring as to how they all handled the most recent economic down turn," said Chuck Yanke, president of Vulcan Lead Products Company in Milwaukee, and one of 15 judges who selected the eight winners for this year's event. "Wisconsin should be very proud of the hard working, innovative companies that call this state home. The competition for these awards was tough; I think that is a testimony to the hard work put into the competition by each company."

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Throughout their history as a manufacturer of non-ferrous castings, pressure cookers, and medical sterilizers, Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry has been an important employer in Manitowoc county and today employs 327 hard-working people. They are family-owned and consistently provide the finest quality products for their customers – both domestic and international.

In their 100 years in business, Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry has outperformed others in their industry through innovation and best practices. Their implementation of lean manufacturing through cell concepts and robotics has increased productivity by 30 percent. Continuous improvement has allowed the company to successfully compete in the foundry industry – an industry that is becoming more international in nature every day. By continually investing in new technology and processes, they have been able to solidify existing customer relationships, and garner new ones, successfully facing the challenges that American manufacturers and their employees are encountering from increased global competition.

Forty Wisconsin businesses were nominated for the 22nd annual Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Awards. An independent panel of judges, with representatives from business, education, government and the media, selected the 2009 Manufacturer of the Year Award winners. More information about the Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Awards program can be found at www.wimoty.com.

The statewide recognition program is co-sponsored by Baker Tilly, one of America's largest accounting and advisory firms; Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, a preeminent Midwest-based law firm; and Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, the state's largest business association.

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**RELATED INFORMATION:
Complete Awards Listing:**

Grand Awards

Oshkosh Corporation – Defense Division, Oshkosh – Grand Award, mega company category
American Orthodontics Corporation, Sheboygan – Grand Award, large company category
Sentry Equipment Corp., Oconomowoc – Grand Award, medium company category
Northwoods Paper Converting, Beaver Dam – Grand Award, small company category
Frito-Lay, Inc., Beloit – Grand Award, sustainability category

Special Awards

Mayville Engineering Company Inc. (MEC), Mayville – Special Award, “Community Involvement and Conservation Education”
Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry Company, Inc., Manitowoc – Special Award, “Industry Perseverance”
Plastic Components, Inc., Germantown – Special Award, “Commitment to Community and Employees”