

PRESS RELEASE EMBARGOED UNTIL 9:30 P.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014

NOTE: Companies will not learn they have won until the night of the banquet. Do not contact any winners prior to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 27.

Contact

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Alliance Laundry Systems Wins 2013 Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Special Award Ripon company wins special award for investing locally, growing globally

Milwaukee - Alliance Laundry Systems, LLC is one of nine Wisconsin companies awarded a prestigious Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Award. The winners were announced Thursday night at a black tie banquet honoring the 34 nominees.

From its beginnings in a small town in central Wisconsin, Alliance Laundry Systems LLC has grown into one of the leading commercial laundry manufacturers in the world. Alliance is bringing the concept of laundromats, with all the convenience and improved hygiene and quality of life they provide, to emerging markets around the world. This dramatic international initiative is fueling manufacturing and employment growth in Wisconsin.

Alliance completed a major \$23 million plant expansion in September 2013. Less than two months later, they announced a second, even bigger expansion of its manufacturing and assembly facilities in Ripon – a \$46 million project, the largest in their history. Alliance now employs more than 1,600 people in Ripon, where it added people in almost every department during 2013. Alliance is strategically expanding their presence in the consumer market, both domestically and in emerging markets.

Celebrating its 26th year, the Manufacturer of the Year Award program recognizes manufacturers of all sizes for all they do to drive the Wisconsin economy. The Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year award winners were selected by an independent panel of judges representing industry, education, and the public sector.

The accounting and advisory firm of Baker Tilly, the law firm of Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, and the business association Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce sponsor the MOTY awards

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program. Additional information can be found online at www.wimoty.com or by calling (800) 362-7301.

The 2013 winners are:

Grand Awards

Mercury Marine, Fond du Lac - Mega Category
Masters Gallery Foods, Inc., Plymouth - Large Category
Badger Alloys, Inc., Milwaukee - Medium Category
Tailored Label Products, Inc., Menomonee Falls - Small Category
Alto-Shaam, Inc., Menomonee Falls - Workforce Development Category

Special Awards

Alliance Laundry Systems, LLC, Ripon - Investing Locally, Growing Globally Award Realityworks, Inc., Eau Claire - Innovation Excellence Award Schuette Metals, Rothschild - Investing in the Future Award Xten Industries LLC, Kenosha - Employee Engagement & Commitment Award

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NOTE: Visit <u>www.wimoty.com</u> for more information.