



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Nancy Stephens
850.402.2954

2012 MANUFACTURERS OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

Orlando--At the 9th Annual Manufacturers’ Summit and Marketplace on December 6, 2012 in Orlando, Florida, the Manufacturers Association of Florida announced the winners of this year’s *Manufacturers of the Year* competition.

Our twenty-six judges narrowed the competition to seventeen finalists; winners were chosen in four categories. Each company was judged on: leadership; strategic planning; customer and market focus; measurement, analysis and knowledge management; workforce focus; and process management. In addition to evaluation of applications, tours of finalists’ facilities were made by the judges.

The winners, chosen by category, were:

Up to 65 Employees - Syngenta Flowers, Inc. is recognized worldwide for its high quality flower genetics. The production facility in Alva is the premier producer of chrysanthemum pot and garden mum cuttings for greenhouse and nursery growers in North America. Syngenta Flowers employs 60 full time employees and produces over 140 million cuttings annually.

66-130 Employees – Mapei Corporation is the world leader in the manufacturing of adhesives and complementary products for the installation of all types of floor and wall coverings. Located in Fort Lauderdale, the company has 80 employees there and 59 plants on five continents worldwide. This year is the company’s 75th anniversary.

131-300 Employees – Shaw Development, LLC is a global supplier of fluid management solutions for heavy duty ground vehicles. With 142 employees in Bonita Springs the company engineers, develops, tests and industrializes over 250 new parts each year to provide solutions for mining and construction equipment.

Over 300 Employees – Vistakon - Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. in Jacksonville employs over 1,100 people on 28 production lines and exports to Europe, Japan and the Pacific Rim. Their disposable soft contact lens, ACUVUE®, is the world’s most widely prescribed lens for human vision. The Jacksonville site houses the company’s global headquarters and research and development facility.

Other finalists included: Alternate Energy Technologies, LLC in Green Cove Springs; Concept II Cosmetics, LLC in Miami; Atlas Sign Industries in West Palm Beach; S & P USA Ventilation Systems, Inc. in Jacksonville; Structure Medical, LLC in Naples; Ven-Tel Plastics Corporation in Largo; AO Precision Manufacturing, LLC in Daytona Beach; Embraer Executive Aircraft, Inc. in Melbourne; Mako Surgical Corporation in Fort Lauderdale; Mercury EPM in St. Cloud; Conmed Linvatec in Largo; Fleet Readiness Center Southeast in Jacksonville; and Jabil Defense and Aerospace Systems, LLC in St. Petersburg.

“All of our finalists demonstrated a commitment to excellence in their manufacturing businesses. We are delighted to have such exemplary manufacturing companies in Florida and congratulate the winners of this year’s competition,” said Nancy Stephens, Executive Director, Manufacturers Association of Florida.

Nominations for the 2013 Manufacturers of the Year will be accepted June -August 2013. Details can be obtained from the website in the spring of 2013 at www.mafmfg.com.

The Manufacturers Association of Florida, founded in 2005, is comprised of manufacturers and those supporting industries interested in improving the business climate for manufacturers in Florida.

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