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FEW TICKETS REMAIN FOR 2011 SALUTE TO MANUFACTURING LUNCHEON

Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt to address industry, business and political leaders at gala; 22 finalists for honors named

SOUTH CAROLINA, September 12, 2011 – Fewer than 100 tickets remain for the 16th annual *Salute to Manufacturing Awards Luncheon*, scheduled for Greenville’s *TD Convention Center* on September 22, 2011, organizers have announced.

South Carolina Secretary of Commerce Robert M. “Bobby” Hitt III, the former manager of corporate affairs at BMW Manufacturing Company in Spartanburg, will keynote the affair, expected to draw a full house of manufacturing industry, business, civic and political leaders from across the Palmetto State. Twenty-two companies from across South Carolina have been named finalists for 2011 *Silver Crescent Awards*, which recognize the achievements and contributions by South Carolina’s top manufacturers.

Registration and a brief reception will commence the day’s festivities beginning at 11:30 a.m., with the luncheon starting at 12 noon.

“We are excited to have executives from virtually all of the finalist companies attending the event, in addition to Secretary Hitt, numerous industry and business leaders from across the state, several political leaders, media and others,” said Tony Smith, President of The Silver Crescent Foundation which annually presents the awards. “Our goal is always to attract the right leaders from industry, government and the private sector to this event – not to have a massive, impersonal program. We’re gratified with the community’s response.”

Secretary Hitt has brought a wealth of manufacturing experience, insight and advocacy to South Carolina’s Department of Commerce from his past leadership positions with BMW Manufacturing, the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough law firm in Columbia, and his 17 years of experience as managing editor of both *The State* and *The Columbia Record* newspapers. He is immediate past chairman of the S.C. Manufacturers’ Alliance, vice chairman of the Public Affairs Steering Committee for the Southeast Region of the National Association of Manufacturers and has served on the executive committee of Advance SC and on the board of the S.C. Centers of Economic Excellence.

Now in its tenth year, the *Silver Crescent Awards for Manufacturing Excellence* program honors manufacturing organizations from across the Palmetto State for their contributions to South Carolina's educational system, commitment to workforce, environmental stewardship, and product or process improvements.

Finalists for honors in the competition are:

Large Manufacturer Finalists (500+ employees)

Cummins Turbo Technologies, Ladson
Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation, Gaffney
Honda of SC Manufacturing, Inc., Timmonsville
Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, Greenville
Michelin North America, Greenville
Robert Bosch LLC, Charleston

Mid-Sized Manufacturer Finalists (200-499 employees)

BorgWarner, Seneca
Domtar Paper Company, LLC - Marlboro Mill, Bennettsville
Jostens, Inc., Laurens
Shaw Industries Group, IN, Central
US Engine Valve, Westminster

Small Manufacturer Finalists (under 200 employees)

Adex Machining Technologies, Greenville
Cox Industries, Inc., Orangeburg
Cytec Industries, Inc., North Augusta
G & G Metal Fabrication, Inc., Sumter
Meritor, Manning
Precision Machine Components, Brunson
PropertyBoss Solutions, Greenville
Rina's Kitchen, Inc., Summerville
SKF Charleston, North Charleston
Sumter Packaging Corp., Sumter
Treblig, Inc., Greenville

Tickets to the luncheon are \$40 per person, and are available online at www.silvercrescentsc.org or from program administrator Sharon Halsey at (803) 657-6183. Interested attendees are encouraged to secure tickets immediately.

Presented annually by The Silver Crescent Foundation, the *2011 Silver Crescent Awards* are co-sponsored by *Marketplace Staffing*, one of South Carolina's leading staffing and productivity solution providers; by *CPM Federal Credit Union*, which has proudly served South Carolina manufacturers since 1955; by *Dream It, Do It of South Carolina*, and by *SC Biz News, LLC*.

To learn more about the *Silver Crescent Awards* and the *Salute to Manufacturing Luncheon*, visit www.SilverCrescentSC.org or contact Sharon Halsey at (803) 657-6183.

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