

SOUTH CAROLINA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Press Release



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S.C. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND SILVER CRESCENT FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE MANUFACTURERS OF THE YEAR

Columbia, S.C. — The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and the Silver Crescent Foundation announce the 2009 Silver Crescent Manufacturer of the Year award winners. Celebrating the awards, the distinguished Salute to Manufacturing was held September 22 at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SIMT) in Florence.

- The Small Manufacturer of the Year (100 or less employees) is Packaging Corporation of America, located in Honea Path.
- The Medium Manufacturer of the Year (101-499 employees) is Sandvik/Valenite, located in Westminster.
- The Large Manufacturer of the Year (500 or more employees) is Alcoa Mt. Holly, located in Goose Creek.

Other Silver Crescent Manufacturer of the Year Nominees Include:

Eaton Corporation	Parker Hannifin Corporation, Racor Division
Eaton Corporation Hydraulics Business	PPG Industries, Inc.
Force Protection, Inc.	Raisio Staest US, Inc.
GlaxoSmithKline	S&W Manufacturing, A SMEAD COMPANY
Holcim (US) Inc.	Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
Hubbell Lighting, Inc.	SC Metal Products
Jostens, Inc.	Schneider Electric
KS Gleitlager USA, Inc.	Scienceceuticals, Inc.
Metso Power	U.S. Engine Valve

Dr. Thomas R. Kurfess, who serves as the BMW Endowed Chair of Manufacturing at Clemson University and director of the Carroll A. Campbell Jr. Graduate Engineering Center, provided an inspiring keynote address on South Carolina's ever-increasing role in advanced manufacturing. He believed the outlook for high-tech and profitable manufacturing here in the Palmetto State is encouraging and said it remains important to focus efforts on creating a well-equipped and educated workforce to make sure South Carolina companies remain competitive in the global marketplace.

Manufacturer of the Year selections were based upon quality improvement efforts, quality of life programs, improvements in the environment, involvement in local community and economic development, education and workforce development and overall effectiveness.

“The Silver Crescent Manufacturer of the Year awards provide an opportunity for business and community leaders to recognize the accomplishments of South Carolina's best and brightest companies,” said Otis B. Rawl, Jr., president and chief executive officer of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. “We celebrate the valuable contributions manufacturing provides to the Palmetto State.”

“We are so pleased by the response this year’s Salute to Manufacturing has generated, especially during these uncertain economic times,” said Karen Owens, president of the Silver Crescent Foundation. “Having 21 companies nominated and some 300 business and education leaders from across the state travel to Florence to participate in our first combined recognition event for manufacturing made this a very successful day in my book. While three companies were able to take home this prestigious award, we think all the companies are winners for the contributions they make to South Carolina’s economy.”

Nicole Boone from WBTW TV served as the mistress of ceremonies.

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the nation’s first state chamber Accredited with Distinction by the U.S. Chamber, is the state’s largest statewide broad-based business and industry trade association representing more than 6,500 member companies and more than 600,000 member employees, with 90 percent of membership comprised of small businesses. As the unified voice for business and industry, the Chamber is a catalyst for increasing per capita income and enhancing the state’s global competitiveness in order to improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians.

The Silver Crescent Foundation’s mission is to promote manufacturing vitality and career opportunities in South Carolina. The Foundation is made up of business and education leaders across the state who are committed to supporting manufacturing’s continued success.

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