

Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry Company Inc. Wins 2003 Manufacturer of the Year Award for “Dedication to Wisconsin Workers”



Milwaukee---Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry Company, Inc., Manitowoc, Thursday won a special award for its “Dedication to Wisconsin Workers” at the 2003 Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Awards.

Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry was one of five firms that won special awards based on its exemplary contributions to manufacturing in the state. In addition, five Grand awards were presented at the annual Manufacturer of the Year competition for overall outstanding achievement. In total, 41 companies were nominated for this year’s awards.

Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry Company, Inc. is a manufacturer of non-ferrous castings, pressure cookers and griddles. It stands out from its competitors with its ability to take a casting design project from prototype sampling to full production in a time frame that keeps it customers ahead of its competition.

It offers its employees profit gain-sharing, educational benefits, and a new wellness initiative sustaining a productive and secure workforce as well as a good reputation as an employer in the Manitowoc-area community.

The annual competition is co-sponsored by Virchow, Krause & Company, LLP, the nation’s 13th largest accounting and consulting firm; Michael Best & Friedrich, LLP, a preeminent Midwest-based law firm, and WMC, the state’s largest business lobby.

“We are proud to honor these manufacturers that are responsible for blazing a trail of job creation and keeping our local economies strong,” said Tim Christen, CDO of Virchow Krause.

“The Manufacturer of the Year Awards program celebrated the untold stories of Wisconsin’s manufacturing companies that set the standards of excellence,” said Geoffrey Morgan, a partner at Michael Best & Friedrich, LLP.

An independent panel of judges, including leaders in business, government, education and the business media, evaluated the nominations. The MOTY awards were presented Thursday at a black-tie banquet at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee.

2003 Manufacturer of the Year award winner sidebar

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Despite the challenges faced by American foundries, Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry is poised for an optimistic future through increased exposure in the marketplace as well as through internal improvements in cost, productivity, and efficiency-all in a effort to keep jobs in Wisconsin.

An ISO 9002 and QS9000 certified manufacturer, the company produces castings for a variety of industries including manufacturers of gasoline commercial engines, generators, diesel engines, marine engines, farm machinery, construction machinery and paper making machinery.

As a one-stop shop, the company offers engineering support, quality control, machining capabilities, heat treatment and impregnation services, and the use of robotics. Continuous improvement in these areas will allow the company to successfully compete in the foundry industry-an industry that is becoming more international everyday.

Their aggressive modernization program, including the use of robotics and the continual upgrading of facilities and equipment, assures that Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry will remain in a long-term competitive position in the foundry industry.

The company, along with five other area foundries, partnered with the Appleton-area OSHA division to form the Foundry Ergonomic Partnership to proactively reduce ergonomic injuries in the foundry industry.

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The company instituted a gain sharing program with two of its three unions this past fiscal year. The pool of money is split between all full-time employees that are not in any other incentive program.

In addition, the company offers tuition and book reimbursement for employees enrolled in continuing education. And, it also annually awards a \$1000 scholarship to children of company employees who are full-time students at either a two- or four-year college.

The company recently established a wellness initiative, offering a free health assessment to all employees to check Body Mass Index, cholesterol levers, blood sugar levels, and blood pressure. The company plans to identify the highest risk profiles and offer future programs to reduce or eliminate the health risk. In the next year, the company plans to implement a smoking cessation program, an in-house weight watchers program, a walking program, and additional health risk appraisal.