

Nine Wisconsin Companies Win Manufacturer of the Year Awards



MILWAUKEE—Nine Wisconsin companies Thursday received 2003 Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year awards for manufacturing excellence, including a new top honor in the high-technology category.

For the first time in the 16-year history of the MOTY awards, a single firm – GE Medical System – Information Technologies – received two Grand awards. It took top honors as a “Mega” manufacturer, and the newly created “Hi-Tech” Grand award.

“These Wisconsin companies have positioned themselves to grow as the economy rebounds,” said James S. Haney, WMC president. “They have made a commitment to keep manufacturing jobs right here in Wisconsin and have established themselves as community and global leaders.”

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 states 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, CEO 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.

New to this year’s program was the Hi-Tech grand award, presented to a high-tech manufacturer exemplifying innovation and leadership in its field.

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 Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Awards Winners

Grand Award Winners

GE Medical Systems-Information Technologies, Milwaukee
Coating Excellence International, Wrightstown
Oconomowoc Manufacturing Corporation, Oconomowoc
Sargento Foods Inc., Plymouth
GE Medical Systems-Information Technologies, Milwaukee

Category

Mega (800+ employees)
Medium (100-299 employees)
Small (1-99 employees)
Community Commitment
Hi-Tech

Special Award Winners

All About Packaging, Inc., Appleton – “Rising Entrepreneur”
Allen-Edmonds Shoe Corporation, Port Washington – “Making it Better in America”
Heritage Veneered Products, Shawano – “Commitment to Employees”
National School Lines, Omro – “Social Impact”
Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry Company, Inc., Manitowoc – “Dedication to Wisconsin Workers”

Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Grand Award winners are recognized for overall outstanding achievement and are categorized based on the number of employees. In addition, the Community Commitment Grand award was presented to a manufacturer for its outstanding community commitment and steadfast community involvement. The Hi-Tech Grand award is presented to a high-tech manufacturer exemplifying innovation and leadership in its field.

Special Awards are presented to companies for achieving excellence in any one area. Categories are determined by the judges based on information provided in nomination forms. Forty-one companies were nominated for this year’s awards.