



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 6, 2013

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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2013 MANUFACTURERS OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

ST. PETERSBURG, FL.— At the 10th Annual Manufacturers Summit and Marketplace this week in St. Petersburg, the Manufacturers Association of Florida announced the winners of the 2013 *Manufacturers of the Year* competition.

MAF is focused on increasing exports, leveraging the talent pipeline, and eliminating the skills gap in Florida. There are 18,425 manufacturers in Florida and 317,300 manufacturing employees—4.2% of Florida’s total employment. The average annual wage for Florida manufacturing employees is \$53,284 while the average annual wage for all Florida employees is \$43,210. Ranked by industry, manufacturing provides the third-highest salary.

Our 26 judges narrowed the competition to 17 finalists 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 the applications, the judges toured finalists’ facilities.

The winners chosen by category were:

Up to 65 employees—Arcadia Aerospace Industries, LLC is a Southwest Florida-based company with a mission to provide state-of-the-art inspection solutions by effectively utilizing the philosophies of high quality, advanced techniques and superior customer service.

66-130 employees— Seal Aftermarket Products is a leader in the global automotive aftermarket, specializing in transmissions kits and components and is based in Pembroke Park, Florida.

131-300 employees— Gerdau Long Steel North America, based out of Baldwin, Florida is a 112-year-old steel company, the leading producer of long steel in the Americas and one of the world's largest suppliers of specialty long steel.

Over 300 employees— Conmed Linvatec in Largo, Florida is a global leader in the fields of arthroscopy, multi-specialty endoscopic medical video systems and powered surgical instruments.

Other finalists included Heat Pipe Technology in Tampa; Magga Products Company, Inc. in Holly Hill; Smart for Life in Riviera Beach; Bolton Medical, Inc., in Sunrise; Pelican Wire in Naples; AO Precision Manufacturing, LLC, in Daytona Beach; Bausch & Lomb in Tampa; Jabil Defense and Aerospace in St. Petersburg; SAFT American, Inc.

in Jacksonville; Georgia-Pacific Corporation in Palatka; and Teledyne Oil & Gas in Daytona Beach.

“All 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 2014 *Manufacturers of the Year* competition will be accepted June-August 2014. Details can be found from the website in spring 2014 at www.mafmfg.com.

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About the Manufacturers Association of Florida (MAF)

The MAF was formed in 2006 to improve the business climate for manufacturers in Florida. The top manufacturing sectors in Florida include computers and electronics, food products, medical equipment, aerospace parts, nonmetallic mineral products, fabricated metal products, machinery, chemicals, paper products, and printed products. Visit www.mafmfg.com.