

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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2014 MANUFACTURERS OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

TALLAHASSEE, FL. — At the 11th Annual Manufacturers Summit and Marketplace last week in Miramar Beach, FL the Manufacturers Association of Florida announced the winners of the 2014 Manufacturers of the Year competition.

MAF is focused on promoting excellence in manufacturing, decreasing tax burdens and developing a skilled workforce. There are 328,550 individuals employed in the manufacturing sector in Florida, earning greater than average wages.

Our judges narrowed the competition to 21 finalists in five 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:

Category 1 (1-74 Employees) – BELAC LLC of Oldsmar, FL makes high pressure turbine blades for commercial and military transport category aircraft for both the aftermarket and in support of original equipment engine manufacturers. BELAC blades are sold to more than 51 customers in some 23 countries.

www.chromalloy.com

Category 2 (75-124 Employees) - Pelican Wire Company of Naples, FL is a custom insulator of wire, making all kinds of wire - thermocouple, solid and stranded resistance, ribbon, high temperature heating, glass core heater wire and wire for floor heating. They specialize in 50 to 2 gauge diameter wire alloys. Their customers are end users, original equipment manufacturers and distributors.

www.pelicanwire.com

Category 3 (125-199 Employees) – UTC Aerospace Systems of Jacksonville, FL is a leading supplier of composite structures and acoustic materials for defense and aerospace markets. They design, test and manufacture composite structures that are lightweight, corrosion resistant, acoustically transparent or radar absorbing. Their products are installed on military combat ships, submarines, special operations craft and commercial passenger aircraft. www.utcaerospacesystems.com

Category 4 (200-349 Employees) – StrykerMako of Fort Lauderdale, FL is a medical device company that markets a robotic arm and implants for use in knee and hip replacement medical procedures. Their products result in patients having less

invasive procedures to restore their mobility and active lifestyles.

www.makosurgical.com

Category 5 (350+ Employees) – Nautique Boat Company of Orlando manufactures ski and wake-sports boats available worldwide. The company has 70 international dealers in more than 60 countries. The property their manufacturing facility is located on contains two private lakes utilized for product and engineering testing.

www.nautique.com

Other finalists included HERNON Manufacturing Inc. of Sanford; Monin Gourmet Flavorings of Clearwater; Fabco-Air of Gainesville; MasterCut Tool Corporation of Safety Harbor; PAC Seating Systems of Palm City; The SMART Companies of Fort Myers; Craig Technologies of Cape Canaveral; Hale Products Inc. of Ocala; Propulsion Technologies International of Miramar; Fort Walton Machining of Fort Walton Beach; The Safariland Group of Jacksonville; Saft America, Inc. of Jacksonville; TechnoAerospace of Miami Beach; Carlisle Interconnect Technologies of St. Augustine; Fleet Readiness Center Southeast of Jacksonville; and GE Power & Water – Renewable Energy of Pensacola.

“All our finalists demonstrate a commitment to excellence in their manufacturing businesses. We were delighted to have such a diverse representation of Florida manufacturers in the competition. We are very proud of our winners of this prestigious award, they are truly the best in class” said Nancy Stephens, Executive Director, Manufacturers Association of Florida.

Nominations for the 2015 Manufacturers of the Year competition will be accepted May-July 2015. Details can be found on the website in 2015 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.