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## SFMA Newsletter

December 2011

Dear Sandra,

### Why SFMA?

**SFMA** is the primary resource for manufacturers in South Florida. **SFMA** is your solutions provider with respect to member needs in areas of manufacturing workforce development and training; legislative and regulatory advocacy; industry sector economic development; and manufacturing specific events.

### MAF Manufacturing Day at the Capitol

Manufacturing Days at the Capitol, January 23-24, 2012 includes the following activities:

**January 23, 2012** at the Governor's Club, 202 1/2 South Adams Street, Tallahassee, FL

2:30 - 5:00 p.m. Legislative Briefing with invited speakers on the most pressing topics and briefing on the next day's legislative visits in the Main Dining Room

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Legislative Reception in the Plantation Room (all legislators invited)

**January 24, 2012** at the Capitol Tallahassee, FL  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Schedule legislative visits at the Capitol with participants (MAF will schedule the visits and make team assignments)

Register Now: [www.mafmfq.com](http://www.mafmfq.com)

### Quick Links

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The SFMA Staff wishes you and yours a Happy Holiday Season!



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**NAM/IW Q4 Survey: Manufacturer Optimism**

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[Training Institute](#)

Manufacturers are becoming more confident in the economy as the year is winding down. In the last NAM/IndustryWeek Survey of Manufacturers.. [read more.](#)

**New Veteran's job bill providing powerful tax credit**

FACT SHEET: The VOW To Hire Heroes Act  
KEY PROVISIONS:

- \* Tax credit of up to \$5,600 for hiring veterans who have been looking for a job for more than six months, as well as a \$2,400 credit for veterans who are unemployed for more than 4 weeks, but less than 6 months.
- \* Tax credit of up to \$9,600 for hiring veterans with service-connected disabilities who have been looking for a job for more than six months.
- \* The VOW To Hire Heroes Act makes the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), an interagency workshop coordinated by Departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs, mandatory for service members moving from military to civilian life to help them secure 21st Century jobs through resume writing workshops and career counseling.
- \* Expands education and training opportunities for older veterans by providing 100,000 unemployed veterans of past eras and wars with up to 1-year of additional Montgomery GI benefits to go towards educational or training programs at community colleges or technical schools.
- \* Provides disabled veterans up to 1-year of additional Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits.
- \* Allows service members to begin the federal employment process prior to separation in order to facilitate a truly seamless transition from the military to jobs at VA, Homeland Security, or the many other federal agencies in need of our veterans.

## Recognition of Excellence Banquet

On Wednesday, March 21, 2012, an event will take place that showcases the excellence demonstrated in the South Florida manufacturing community by both Individuals and Organizations. This event, hosted by SFMA, is the premier event of the year for manufacturers.

**The Event**

This is a two part program that celebrates Employees of the Year and Manufacturers of the Year.

**The Venue**

The beautiful atriums of the Design Center of the Americas (DCOTA), Fort Lauderdale.

**The Process**

The Employee of the Year recognition is a process that celebrates excellence as demonstrated by company team members in each of 5 functional categories. This event will be a career highlight for those you nominate and is a "Red Carpet" evening your employees will never forget. It is an opportunity for nominees to dine at your corporate table, receive a finalist's plaque on stage, be placed in our event magazine and receive a commemorative photo. For information see: [Nomination Form](#)

Through the Manufacturer of the Year judging process, those entities that are nominated and have demonstrated excellence to our panel of judges, will be selected as a finalist. Ultimately, a winner is selected in each of 3 employee size based categories. Not only are the prevailing organizations recognized by peers as a benchmark in quality, but they also become South Florida's representatives to the state competition held at MAF's Annual Manufacturing Summit. For information see:

[The Process](#); [The Judging Criteria](#) ; [The Questionnaire.](#)

**The Deadline**

Nominations end February 3, 2012 for Manufacturers and February 24, 2012 for Employees. Should you have any questions, please contact our office at 954-941-3558.

EVENT REGISTRATION NOT OPEN YET!

## Nipro Diagnostics, Inc. Wins Manufacturer Of The Year Award

Diabetes Monitoring And Management Company Also Purchases Two Buildings In Fort Lauderdale, FL

(Fort Lauderdale, FL) - Nipro Diagnostics, Inc. has won the Manufacturers Association of Florida (MAF) 2011 Manufacturer of the Year Award. The company was recognized in the large-company (500+ employees) category. The award, based on evaluation of leading-edge management practices, manufacturing and process quality, and other performance-excellence criteria, was presented at the 2011 MAF Manufacturers Summit & Marketplace award ceremony on December 1, 2011. The event was attended by Florida's leading manufacturers as well as Florida Governor Rick Scott.

"This award is a tribute to the employees of Nipro Diagnostics," said CEO and President Scott Verner. "We build excellence into every aspect of our operations, and this recognition exemplifies our dedication to manufacturing quality blood glucose monitoring systems. I congratulate every employee who has helped us achieve and maintain our quality/value leadership position in our industry." Nipro Diagnostics - formerly Home Diagnostics, Inc. - is a leading manufacturer and marketer of diabetes monitoring and management products with headquarters and manufacturing facilities in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

For further information, please contact your local WorkForce One Career Center or visit them online at [www.wf1broward.com](http://www.wf1broward.com)

**SFMA's  
Manufacturers Training  
Institute (MTI)**

MTI specializes in the delivery of technical and employability skills training. Please visit our [website](#) to learn more.

Governor Scott, commenting on Nipro Diagnostics' MAF award, said: "Congratulations to Nipro Diagnostics on receiving this recognition. As a low cost manufacturer of products for people with diabetes, the company plays a vital role in making healthcare more affordable."

Out of the nearly 18,000 manufacturers in Florida, just seventeen were selected as finalists.

"Every organization that makes it to the finalist round of the Manufacturers Association of Florida competition is very deserving. Competing against the other great companies in our category like Anheuser-Busch InBev, Inc., BAE Systems, Georgia-Pacific Corporation and Publix Supermarkets, makes this achievement have greater significance," Verner commented.

The criteria for winning Manufacturer of the Year includes leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, measurement, analysis and knowledge management, workforce focus, and process management. The panel of judges visited each finalist company's facility to evaluate organizational practices pertinent to the six judging criteria categories.

Nipro Diagnostics also announced the purchase of two buildings in Fort Lauderdale. The company will expand manufacturing, as well as other operations, in these two facilities. "The acquisition of these buildings solidifies our presence in South Florida and is another example of our commitment to growing our business," Verner stated.

"Our company, products and employees have received significant recognition - including having our TRUEresult® and TRUE2go® Meters highly rated by a leading independent consumer magazine, two Manufacturer of the Year awards, and Vendor of the Year from our customers - and we look forward to building on these successes."

Earlier this year, Nipro Diagnostics was named South Florida Manufacturer of the Year in the 200+ employee category. The award was based on exemplifying benchmark-level quality with the recognition awarded by industry peers.

The Manufacturers Association of Florida Web site is [www.maf.affiniscape.com](http://www.maf.affiniscape.com).  
More information about Nipro Diagnostics can be found at [www.niprodiagnostics.com](http://www.niprodiagnostics.com).

About Nipro Diagnostics, Inc.  
Based in Fort Lauderdale, Nipro Diagnostics, Inc. is a leading developer, manufacturer and marketer of diabetes management products. The company offers a portfolio of high quality, blood glucose monitoring systems and products that are available around the world. Nipro Diagnostics is the exclusive supplier of blood glucose monitoring systems co-branded under the TRUE name, for leading pharmacies including Walgreens, CVS, Rite Aid and Publix; as well as for distributors and mail service providers such as McKesson, Cardinal Health, AmerisourceBergen, Invacare Supply Group and Liberty Medical. For more information, please visit [www.niprodiagnostics.com](http://www.niprodiagnostics.com).

## SFMA Training Classes Upcoming

Register now to expand your knowledge and skills. Seating limited. Take advantage of SFMA training in the upcoming months. You may be eligible for grant funding. Find more about these workshops and register at [www.sfma.org](http://www.sfma.org).

- January 17, 2012 - [Black Belt/Green Belt Training Class](#)
- January 17, 2012 - [Lean Project Leader Training](#)
- February 7, 2012 - [Six Sigma Refresher Training](#)

If you would like to find out more about any of these classes please contact Phil Centonze at 954.684.2642, [phil.centonze@pos-impact.com](mailto:phil.centonze@pos-impact.com); or call the SFMA office 954.941.3558.

**Sincerely,**

Tom Kennedy, CPA  
President/CEO  
SFMA  
954-941-3558

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