

# SFMA News

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A monthly newsletter

## Recognition of Excellence

On Wednesday, March 23, 2011, the South Florida Manufacturers Association (SFMA) held its 32<sup>nd</sup> annual **Recognition of Excellence** awards banquet at the beautiful DECOTA facility in Dania Beach, Florida. This event creates a venue at which the Manufacturing Industry in South Florida celebrates excellence at both the employee and corporate levels.

During the evening, nominated employees finalist competed for the Employee of the Year award in five categories, Administrative/Finance, Engineering/IT, Production Supervisory, Production and Sales. The three part criteria used was: 2010 Overall Accomplishments; Individual Acts; Distinguishing Characteristics.

The anticipation grew as the thirty-three finalist were reduced to the five winners. They were:

Fred Pearson, Hoerbiger Corporation of America  
Tina George, SV Microwave  
Robert Piatek, MAPEI Corporation  
Daniel Westwood, Hoerbiger Corporation of America  
Carmen Negrón, Bolton Medical, Inc.

The competition for the prestigious **Manufacturer of the Year** award was especially keen this year as manufacturers throughout the region competed in four size categories. This award is presented based on five criteria: Leadership; Strategic Planning; Market Focus; Information Measurement and Analysis; Workforce Focus; Process management.

The fifteen finalists were ultimately reduced to the four winners. They were:

Worldwide Superabrasives, LLC, Boynton Beach  
Entegra Roof Tile, Okeechobee  
Timbar Packaging & Display, Miami  
Nipro Diagnostics, Fort Lauderdale

During the event, the first annual Donald Jakubowski Memorial Award for Outstanding Neighborhood Support within the Manufacturing community was presented. This award, dedicated to the memory Don Jakubowski, past SFMA Vice Chairman and Vice President of Production at Hoerbiger Corporation of America, was given to John Payne, Vice President of Manufacturing at Sonny's Enterprises, Inc. for his outstanding contribution to the success of the SFMA Machinist Apprentice Program.

In addition, special recognition was given to Dr. Ronald DeMeo, M.D., MBA, President and CEO of Radiation Shield Technologies for his humanitarian efforts with respect his donation of his breakthrough technology radiation suits to nuclear power plant workers in Japan affected by the recent earthquakes.

Tom Kennedy, CPA, Executive Director of SFMA said "We are proud of all the participants in this year's event and SFMA will continue to be the primary resource to the Manufacturing Community in South Florida with respect to Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy, Workforce Development, Economic Development and Special Events.



## SFMA Lobbies For Ratification of Free Trade Agreements

Congressman Ted Deutch (D), Florida 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, met with the Board of Directors of the South Florida Manufacturers Association (SFMA) on Wednesday, Feb. 23, hosted by Hoerbiger Corporation of America at their Pompano Beach corporate offices. The Legislative Committee, Chaired by Stephen Walker of the law firm Lewis, Longman & Walker, LLP, presented the Congressman with SFMA's 2011 legislative agenda, including our position on international free trade agreements, specifically those pending for Columbia, Panama and South Korea. Patrick Stallings, Senior Vice President of Point Blank Solutions, Inc. gave testimonial regarding restrictive issues affecting business abroad.

Congressman Deutch was receptive to the issues presented and advised the Board of his support for fewer onerous restrictions to international trade and for agreements that will grow our economy and create new manufacturing jobs in Florida and across America.

Tom Kennedy, CPA, Executive Director of the SFMA said "This meeting was the first in SFMA's Congressional Issues Series at which representatives from our association will meet with local, regional, state and federal legislators and officials addressing issues that are of concern for the South Florida Manufacturing Community."

SFMA again reinforced the proposition that the association is the primary resource for South Florida Manufacturers with respect to Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy, as well as Workforce Development, Economic

Development and Special Events developed primarily for the Manufacturing Industry.

## From The Front Line To The Production Line

Military veterans have the talent to overcome skills shortages in the U.S. manufacturing industry. Do you need to overcome a skills shortage in your manufacturing facilities? If so, we strongly suggest that you aggressively seek applications from men and women who are transitioning from active duty in the armed forces to civilian life and military veterans who are seeking jobs.

The Manufacturing Institute recently published a research report, *The Skills Gap 2001*, identifying several serious shortages among companies that are members of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM). The report also identified the chief reasons why those companies reject job applicants.

Individuals with a military background have the skills to meet the shortages; and they would have low rates of rejection for reasons pertaining to both their personal and professional characteristics. In addition, by recruiting such individuals, a company can go a long way toward meeting its diversity hiring goals and establishing a reputation as a veteran-friendly employee. To read more download the article [here](#).