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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2019

Florida Sterling Council and FloridaMakes Announce Finalists for the Florida Sterling Manufacturing Business Excellence Awards

Award Winners to Be Announced at May 31 Sterling Awards Banquet in Orlando

TALLAHASSEE - The Florida Sterling Council and FloridaMakes today announced that 33 manufacturing companies have been named as finalists for the third Florida Sterling Manufacturing Business Excellence Awards. The winners, chosen from the finalists, will be announced at the 2019 Governor's Sterling Awards Banquet at the JW Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes on May 31 in Orlando.

The Florida Sterling Council and FloridaMakes collaborated on these statewide awards to recognize the state's high-performing manufacturers. Companies were judged on six criteria categories: Leadership; strategic planning; customers; measurement; analysis and knowledge management, workforce; and operations.

Finalists for the 2019 Florida Sterling Manufacturing Business Excellence Awards are:

Independent companies with up to 25 employees:

- Cruise Car, Inc, Sarasota, FL
- Habilitation Center of Boca, Boca Raton, FL
- Intellisteel Group, LLC, Leesburg, FL
- Levil Technology Corporation, Oviedo, FL
- Sarasota Medical Products Inc., Sarasota, FL

Independent companies with 26-50 employees:

- Artemis Plastics, LLC, Ocala, FL
- AXI International, Fort Myers, FL
- BRIDG, Kissimmee, Florida
- BryCoat, Oldsmar, FL
- Crevalle Boats, Wildwood, FL

- Custom Manufacturing & Engineering, Inc., Pinellas Park, FL

Independent companies with 51-125 employees:

- Dusobox Corporation, Orlando, FL
- Expert Shutter Services, Port St. Lucie, FL
- Kira Labs, Inc., Pompano Beach, FL
- PPI Technologies Group, Sarasota, FL
- Sentry View Systems, Melbourne, FL

Independent companies with more than 125 employees:

- American Elite Molding, Crestview, FL
- Beaver Street Fisheries, Jacksonville, FL
- Easy Foods, Inc., Kissimmee, FL
- Fort Walton Machining, Inc., Fort Walton Beach, FL
- Shaw Development, LLC, Bonita Springs, FL
- Tampa Tank/Florida Structural Steel, Gibsonton, FL

Corporate-backed companies with up to 200 employees:

- Collins Aerospace - EPP, Jacksonville, FL
- Eastman Chemical - Pace Operations, Pace, FL
- Givaudan Flavors, Lakeland, FL
- Leader Tech, Inc., Tampa, FL
- Pall Corporation - Pensacola, Pensacola, FL
- Tellus Products, Belle Glade, FL
- Vac-Tron Equipment, Okahumpka, FL

Corporate-backed companies with more than 200 employees:

- Bacardi Bottling Corporation, Jacksonville, FL
- Lockheed Martin RMS Palm Beach, Riviera Beach, FL
- PGT Innovations, Venice, FL
- Pierce Manufacturing - Bradenton, Bradenton, FL

Florida Sterling-trained examiners and representatives knowledgeable of manufacturing contributed their time and expertise to evaluate nominations, including site visits and management interviews for semi-finalists.

FloridaMakes will feature the finalists in upcoming plant tours, webinars, and events to help share best practices that can benefit Florida's manufacturing sector.

About the Governor's Sterling Award

Established in 1992, the Florida Sterling Council is a public/private not-for-profit corporation supported by the Executive Office of the Governor. The Council oversees the Governor's Sterling Award for Performance Excellence, presented annually by the Governor to high performing, role-model organizations, both private and public, who demonstrate superior management approaches and role model results. Sterling's Conference teaches participants how to elevate performance and increase productivity. See more at www.floridasterling.com.

About FloridaMakes

FloridaMakes is an industry-led public-private partnership operated by participating regional manufacturing associations throughout Florida. Its mission is to improve the productivity and technological performance of Florida manufacturers by accelerating technology adoption, talent development, and business growth, and to strengthen the state's high-wage manufacturing economy. It operates with industry, research, educational, and economic development partners, both public and private at the state and national levels, to provide services that are customized to meet the needs and opportunities of individual companies. FloridaMakes is the official representative of the MEP National Network operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the State of Florida. For more information about FloridaMakes, please visit www.floridamakes.com.

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