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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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**2015 MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS  
OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED**

**TALLAHASSEE, FL.**— At the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Manufacturers Summit and Marketplace on November 5 in West Palm Beach, FL the Manufacturers Association of Florida announced the winners of the 2015 Manufacturers and Distributors of the Year competition.

Thirty-six judges narrowed the competition to twenty-one 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 (1-40 Employees) – Endoscopy Replacement Parts, Inc. of Newberry. The company has 13 employees. Established in 1997, they manufacture aftermarket endoscopy replacement parts and communicate and develop product availability based on customers and repair facilities' needs. A small percentage of their products are exported to Asia and the Pacific. Customers purchase products through their website, by email, phone, fax and trade shows. The company is one of the larger manufacturers at their level of the supply chain in the Endoscopy industry and there is plenty of room for growth.

Category 2 (41-100 Employees) - NRI of West Palm Beach. The company has been the premier manufacturer of engineering solutions for quality, innovative composites that strengthen aging infrastructures for over 30 years. With 55 employees, they develop composite repair solutions for pipelines and infrastructure. They manufacture all their unique composite products within a single facility. Approximately 50% of their products are distributed to Asia, Brazil, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. NRI is an ISO 9001 certified company, providing clients with the utmost in quality, reliability, durability, integrity, and affordability within the composite industry. Their annual revenue has grown 23% each year for the past 3 years in this niche market. Recently NRI launched NRI University. This training and educational academy has a core goal to advance the knowledge, education and understanding of composite repair systems by being a fully mobilized training program.

Category 3 (101-250 Employees) – Fort Walton Machining of Fort Walton Beach. The company is a woman owned small business that makes components, assemblies and prototypes for the defense, aerospace, oil and gas, medical and high tech commercial

products industries. They have been in business since 1987 and have grown from a two person organization to 190 employees. They have both a manufacturing facility and a metal finishing facility. A small percentage of their products are exported to Ireland, Japan and the Netherlands.

Category 4 (250+ Employees) – Sparton of DeLeon Springs. The company has been in business over 100 years. The Sparton facility in DeLeon Springs employs more than 500 people. They maintain a machine shop and multiple test systems for environmental, electrical, and mechanical evaluations of their products and a variety of globally-recognized certifications. Sparton designs and manufactures complex reliable electronic and electro-mechanical products and sub-assemblies, such as underwater sensors. They specialize in the rapid development of custom solutions for use in harsh oceanographic environments.

Distributor (Gold) – Aeroturbine of Miramar. The company offers its customers in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas access to one of the world’s largest and most modern pools of certified aircraft engines and parts. They also repair aircraft parts and engines and lease aircraft engines. They have an international sales force with offices in Singapore and London and warehouses on three continents, allowing them to ship anywhere in the world on short notice.

Distributor (Silver) – ADI Metal of Fort Lauderdale. The company, a certified woman business enterprise, distributes all kinds of metal in all shapes and sizes for marine and industrial uses. Aluminum, brass, bronze, copper, stainless steel, carbon steel and other exotic alloys are distributed to more than 70 countries.

Other finalists included Amazon Hose & Rubber Company of Orlando, Miami and Tampa; Alumi-Guard of Brooksville; Conelec Electronic Manufacturing of DeLand; Dosatron International of Clearwater; Exactech of Gainesville; Hernon Manufacturing of Sanford; Kimball Electronics of Tampa; Knight’s Armament Company of Titusville; Kramski North America of Largo; Lockheed Martin Mission Systems and Training of Palm Beach; Mastercut Tool Corporation of Safety Harbor; Monin Gourmet Flavorings of Clearwater; Polygon Solutions of Fort Myers; Sancilio and Company of Riviera Beach; and The Smart Companies – Storm Smart Industries of Fort Myers.

“All our finalists demonstrate a commitment to excellence in their manufacturing businesses. We were delighted to have such a diverse representation of Florida manufacturers and distributors 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 2016 Manufacturers of the Year competition will be accepted June-August 2016. Details can be found on the website in 2016 at [www.mafmfg.com](http://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. There are some 18,000 manufacturers in Florida investing in new technology, employing highly skilled workers and competing globally. The competition is rigorous and companies are judged on leadership; strategic planning; customer and market focus; measurement, analysis and knowledge management; workforce focus; and operations focus. For more information about MAF, visit [www.mafmfg.com](http://www.mafmfg.com).