

BUSINESS ADVOCATE

Manufacturing moves Alabama's economy forward, and the Business Council of Alabama and the Alabama Technology Network are honored to celebrate Alabama's top manufacturers each year.

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 10

*A publication of the
Business Council
of Alabama*

ALABAMA'S TOP MANUFACTURERS

THE BCA IS ALABAMA'S STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, LEARN MORE AT BCATODAY.ORG

THE ALABAMA MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR AWARDS HIGHLIGHTS THE STATE'S TOP MANUFACTURERS FOR 2021



Finalists from across the state gathered in Montgomery at the RSA Activity Center on October 1 for an award luncheon, where the winners were announced for the Small, Medium, Large and Emerging Manufacturers of the Year.

Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth (R-AL) delivered the keynote address at the luncheon, in which he emphasized that manufacturing is a pillar of Alabama's 21st century economy and congratulated employers who keep our state economically vibrant and grow good-paying jobs for Alabama families.

Since its inception in 2000, the annual Alabama Manufacturer of the Year Awards program has continued to recognize the state's top manufacturers, celebrating the hard work and dedication of each and every employee and promoting the many exemplary accomplishments of Alabama's best and brightest industry leaders.

The awards honor Alabama's manufacturing enterprises that

exhibit excellence in leadership, performance, profitability, and workforce relations. Winners are selected by an independent panel of judges based on superior performance in the areas of customer focus, employee commitment, operating excellence, continuous improvement,

"THE PANDEMIC HAS UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF STRONG DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING AND SUPPLY CHAINS, AND ALABAMIANS SHOULD BE PROUD OF THE HARDWORKING MEN AND WOMEN RIGHT HERE..."

profitable growth, and investment in training and retraining.

The resilience and ingenuity of Alabama's manufacturers were on full display in the latest installment of the program, as adapting to

COVID-19 was a central theme for the winners.

"I was honored to recognize some of Alabama's tremendous manufacturers today," Ainsworth said. "The pandemic has underlined the importance of strong domestic manufacturing and supply chains, and Alabamians should be proud of the hardworking men and women right here at home who have

helped keep our country running over the past two years."

"I will continue to fight for pro-jobs policies that support our Made-In-Alabama manufacturing industry, which creates opportunity and prosperity in local communities across



our great state," he concluded.

Alabama Manufacturer of the Year awards are presented in three categories based on the number of employees of each nominee: small with 99 or fewer employees; medium with 100-399 employees; and large with 400 or greater employees. This ensures that all levels of Alabama's diverse manufacturing industry are represented, from local, family-owned small businesses to some of the largest employers in the Yellowhammer State.

The Emerging Manufacturer of the Year Award also recognizes an upstart manufacturer who has been in business less than five years who has displayed significant growth and the potential to breakout in the coming years.

At \$38.40 billion, manufacturers in Alabama account for 16.83% of the total output in the state, employing 12.99% of the workforce, according to the latest numbers from the National Association of Manufacturers. There are approximately 270,000 manufacturing employees in Alabama, with an average annual compensation of over \$70,000.

"Manufacturing is an economic engine that powers local communities in every corner of our state," said Robin Stone, interim executive director of BCA. "BCA is proud



to support the excellence of Made-In-Alabama manufacturers, and the impressive companies recognized today have certainly earned these well-deserved honors."

"We are grateful to the hardworking employees, innovators and job creators who make Alabama's manufacturing industry the best in the nation," Stone added.

The 2021 Alabama Manufacturer of the Year Award winners are as follows:

SMALL MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR
MUSKOGEE TECHNOLOGY - ATMORE

Over the past 25+ years, Muskogee Technology has become a leader across several manufacturing sectors, including defense, aerospace and energy.

"We specialize in composites cutting and kitting, metal fabrication, and CNC precision machining, and we adhere to strict AS9100 quality management system standards," the company advises.

During the pandemic, Muskogee Technology was challenged to pivot business operations and create an array of life-saving products. Muskogee Technology delivered in a myriad of ways; the manufacturer produced well over 20,000 protective gowns

LEFT PAGE

Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth delivered the keynote address at the 2021 AMOTY awards luncheon.

THIS PAGE

Muskogee Technology received the award for Small Manufacturer of the Year. Muskogee Technology specializes in composite cutting and knitting, metal fabrication, and CNC precision machining.



THIS PAGE

Nidek Medical was awarded Medium Manufacturer of the Year. As the oldest manufacturer of oxygen concentrators in the world, Nidek Medical supplies critical medical equipment to health care facilities across the globe.

RIGHT PAGE

Amerex, a part of the McWane family of companies, is the world's largest manufacturer of hand portable and wheeled fire extinguishers for commercial and industrial applications. Amerex received the Large Manufacturer of the Year award.

NEXT PAGE

NRTC Automation received the award for Emerging Manufacturer of the Year. NRTC Automation provides turnkey, cradle-to-grave automation services to OEMs and tier one companies.

for health care workers, designed and produced thousands of acrylic partitions and sneeze guards to separate workers from customers, and produced specialized hand sanitizer stands and iPad kiosks for touchless temperature screening.

Muskogee Technology has previously received the Atmore Area Chamber of Commerce Hometown Hero award for producing these COVID protection products for businesses and health care providers. The company was also considered for the National Congress of American Indians Manufacturer of the Year award in 2020, due in part to its innovative efforts in making PPE products.

Located in rural Escambia County, the company's flagship facility is 90,000 square feet. This facility houses Muskogee Technology's small fabrication, composites, machining, and quality departments. The company's second facility of 27,000 square feet, also in Atmore, houses its heavy fabrication department.

**MEDIUM MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR
NIDEK MEDICAL - BIRMINGHAM**

A long-running commitment to excellence was more important than ever these



past two years for Nidek Medical, the oldest manufacturer of oxygen concentrators in the world. In a time of fear and uncertainty, the company's outstanding team worked around the clock and behind the scenes to supply critical medical equipment to health care facilities across the globe.

"It was never more apparent for the worldwide need of medical products that Nidek Medical produces," the company notes of the pandemic.

Founded in 1986 with its original headquarters in Homewood, Nidek Medical has been in business for 35 years and is the direct descendant of Union Carbide -- the original developers of the PSA (Pressure Swing Adsorption). After purchasing all of the assets, design, and manufacturing rights for this system, Nidek Medical moved into its current 65,000 square foot Birmingham headquarters and manufacturing facility in 1989.

While a proud Alabama company through and through, Nidek Medical is truly a global presence. The company currently sells into 121 countries

Nidek Medical has even supplied oxygen concentrators to many third-world countries free of charge.



**LARGE MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR
AMEREX - TRUSSVILLE**

A family-owned business celebrating its 50-year anniversary in 2021, Amerex has grown to become the world's largest and most innovative manufacturer of hand portable and wheeled fire extinguishers for commer-

Amerex because of the community, as well as what the state of Alabama brings to the table.

"Amerex is a member of many communities, and community is at the heart of the Amerex culture," the company outlines. "Amerex feels strongly about the company's



drives Amerex to achieve in many areas that include research and development, quality, safety, and business growth."

Amerex's life-saving products are distributed all over the country and the globe. The Alabama company's products help to protect the lives of those who serve in our military, our children in schools and buses, those dining and working in restaurants, and almost any other area of life from oil rigs to airlines to industrial buildings to hotels to public transit to your own home.

"We are proud of a business built on values, trust, loyalty, hard work and generosity," Amerex says.

You will even find end users of Amerex's products at marquee destinations across the globe, from the U.S. government to Buckingham Palace and Disney World to the Empire State Building.

**"MANUFACTURING IS AN ECONOMIC ENGINE
THAT POWERS LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN EVERY
CORNER OF OUR STATE."**

cial and industrial applications, as well as fire suppression systems for vehicle, kitchen, industrial and military applications.

Now a part of the McWane family of companies, Amerex was founded by Ned Paine, a California native who had lived in the Midwest for years. Paine chose Trussville to start

commitment to the community of employees and customers, the Trussville community, the Alabama community, the community within the industry and the community of McWane Inc. family of businesses. This community commitment



**EMERGING MANUFACTURER
OF THE YEAR
NRTC AUTOMATION –
BIRMINGHAM**

Founded in 2019, NRTC Automation is a rapidly growing automation company that strives to ensure all OEMs and tier one companies succeed in Alabama.

“Our presence and continued success will give these OEM and tier one manufacturing companies confidence to bring new plants here to Alabama,” the company explains. “Our goal is to be indispensable to the success of these companies. Overall this will create more high paying jobs in Alabama and continued economic growth.”

NRTC provides turnkey, cradle-to-grave automation services. From part concept, design, installation, de-bug, running at rate, to equipment removal when the program is complete, NRTC is truly a complete automation company.

Headquartered in the Magic

City, NRTC already has a presence in Canada, Michigan, and South Carolina.

In addition to automation and engineering expertise, the company produces Class A automotive closures (hoods, liftgates, doors and fenders) for the Mercedes GL and GLE after-market vehicles.

Finally, NRTC has a state-of-the-art market internet marketplace (IGAM). IGAM is like eBay but geared to all of the products NRTC refurbishes for secondary use. Companies can jump on the website, search for a wide range of products, and purchase them on the spot for quick delivery. NRTC even offers financing for customers who need that option.

Simply put, NRTC is a one-stop-shop for all OEM and tier one companies’ automation needs.

The 2021 Alabama Manufacturer of Year Awards luncheon would not have been possible without the generous support of the event sponsors listed below:

Alabama Power, Brasfield & Gorrie, PNC Bank, University of North Alabama, Alabama Municipal Electric Authority, Manufacture Alabama, Progress Rail Services Corporation, Specification Rubber Products, Abbeville Fiber, Alabama Automotive Manufacturing Association, Birmingham Fastener Manufacturing, Columbia Southern University, Drummond Co., Inc., Immediate, Motion Industries, PowerSouth Energy, Spire Energy, Volkert **BA**

The Business Advocate is published by the Business Council of Alabama, a non-partisan, statewide business association representing the interests and concerns of nearly 1 million working Alabamians through its member companies and its partnership with the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama. For more information on the Business Council of Alabama please contact us at (800) 665-9647 or visit us online at bcatoday.org.