

# BUSINESS ADVOCATE

The Alabama Manufacturer of the Year Awards recognize excellence in Alabama's top manufacturers. Award recipients lead the way representing dedication to leadership, performance standards, profitability, and workforce relations.

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# HONORING ALABAMA'S TOP MANUFACTURERS



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## ALABAMA MANUFACTURING CELEBRATED AT 2022 ALABAMA MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Four companies have been recognized by the Business Council of Alabama (BCA) and the Alabama Technology Network (ATN) as 2022 Alabama Manufacturer of the Year Award winners.

Finalists from across the state gathered in Montgomery at the RSA Activity Center on October 7 for an award luncheon, where the winners were announced for the Small, Medium, Large and Emerging Manufacturers of the Year. Governor Kay Ivey was on hand to celebrate the honorees and show her unwavering support for Alabama's manufacturers.

Listed in alphabetical order, the finalists were: Adventech LLC; Aker Solutions; American Metal Group; Avanti Polar Lipids; Bridgewater Interiors, LLC; Douglas Manufacturing; Ecovery, LLC; Goat Island Craft Brewing, LLC; Golden State Foods; HomTex; Johnson Labs, Inc.; McVantage Packaging, LLC; Southeastern Extrusion & Tool, Inc.; Specification Rubber Products; and YKTA (YTEC Keylex Toyotetsu Alabama).

Alabama Secretary of Commerce Greg Canfield delivered the keynote address at the luncheon, in which he underscored that Made in Alabama manufacturers play a key role in the state's 21st century economy and strengthen communities in all 67 counties.

"I am honored to help recognize the best in Alabama



manufacturing," Canfield remarked. "These incredible companies continue to move Alabama forward with their motivated workforce, innovation, and growth-minded business models."

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

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, profitable growth, and investment in training and retraining.

"The Manufacturer of the Year award winners are the foundation of Alabama's economic success," Canfield advised.

Alabama Manufacturer of the Year awards are presented in three categories based on

## ***"THE MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF ALABAMA'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS." -GREG CANFIELD***

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

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.

"BCA is proud to support these leading manufacturers who are dedicated to keeping Alabama's manufacturing industry the best in the nation through their hard-working employees, superior performance, and excellence in innovation," said Robin Stone, interim executive director of BCA.

Alabama's manufacturing industry as a whole experienced significant growth last decade, with output growing 40% from 2010-2020.

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.

"From small businesses to large industrial employers, each of the category winners and finalists have certainly set themselves apart," Stone added. "We are honored to partner with ATN to recognize these impressive Made-In-Alabama manufacturers."



The 2022 Alabama Manufacturer of the Year Award winners are as follows:

### **SMALL MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR:**

**Douglas Manufacturing, Pell City, AL**

Established in 1978, Douglas Manufacturing has long been known as a leading manufacturer of conveyor components and engineered conveying solutions. All Conveyor Components are proudly designed and manufactured in St. Clair County, where this Alabama small business conveys innovation every day.

For 44 years, Douglas has codified its legacy as an international leader and innovator in the conveyor industry. The company's steadfast mission is to maintain its status as a recognized leader and continue to help customers make their conveyor operations safer and more profitable. This strengthens manufacturing plants and customers throughout the Aggregate, Pulp & Paper, Ship Loading and Unloading, Steel, Chemical, Cement, Coal, Fertilizer, Biofuel, Biomass, Coal-Fired Power Generation, and Agriculture sectors not only in Alabama, but globally.

Douglas achieves this goal through its Pell City facility, which features state-of-the-art equipment and technology and highly trained and experienced engineers, manufacturing team members, and sales professionals.

Douglas also has a record of community

involvement, including chairing the Pell City Schools Educational Foundation and support of Vestavia Hills RISE.

### **MEDIUM MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR:**

**Aker Solutions, Mobile, AL**

Aker Solutions' experienced workforce, innovative manufacturing, and resolute commitment to solving global energy challenges makes them one of Alabama's Manufacturers of the Year.

Located in the Mobile Middle Bay Port, Aker Solutions delivers integrated solutions to the global energy industry. By enabling low-carbon oil and gas production and developing renewable solutions to meet future energy needs, this Alabama manufacturer is accelerating the transition to sustainable energy production.

Aker Solutions' state-of-the-art manufacturing facility was commissioned in 2003, with 62.5 acres under lease. In addition to having one of the largest subsea umbilical storage capacities in the world, this location offers unique capabilities to handle the lifecycle of complex subsea equipment. It features two umbilical closing lines and an API 17E Umbilical testing



facility. A subsea umbilical is a bundle of tubes and cables that transport electrical/hydraulic power and/or signal to subsea equipment or to other offshore structures.

The facility also houses a highly qualified and diverse workforce of over 200 employees working across Manufacturing, Engineering, Project Management, Supply Chain, Finance, HR, and HSSE&Q. To-date, Aker Solutions' Mobile facility has delivered over 2.5 million meters of subsea umbilicals, enabling energy production in the United States and around the world.

#### LARGE MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR:

##### **Bridgewater Interiors, Eastaboga, AL**

Located in Calhoun County,



Bridgewater Interiors, LLC has been providing customer-focused automotive interior manufacturing services since 2004.

Bridgewater Interiors proudly upholds industry-leading standards and performance levels that fulfill the ideals of Minority Business Enterprise leadership. The company's workmanship has garnered honors from JD Power and the Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association, among others.

The nearby Honda plant in Lincoln is Bridgewater Interiors' primary client, as the company spearheads complete seat JIT assemblies for Honda Pilots and Honda Passports. As Honda thrives and continues to invest in Alabama, Bridgewater Interiors is in the process of adding 45 employees in Eastaboga.

The company heeds the responsibility of good corporate citizenship, dedicated community involvement, and commitment to inclusion and diversity in its supplier base and employee ranks. Bridgewater Interiors

is an active partner with East AlabamaWorks and supports its local food bank, and Christmas drives for local families in need.

#### EMERGING MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR:

##### **YKTA, Madison, AL**

Located in Limestone County, YKTA is a joint venture between three automotive suppliers: Y-Tec (Mazda Supplier), Keylex, and Toyotetsu (primarily a Toyota supplier).

YKTA is the largest onsite Tier One supplier for the Mazda Toyota Manufacturing facility. When fully staffed, YKTA will employ 750 team members. The venture also serves the Toyota engine plant in Huntsville.

Manufacturing high-quality parts since 2019, YKTA strives to uphold its core values of harmony, co-creation, and fairness in all areas of business. Its startup success has already landed the venture a Toyota Launch Award.

YKTA aims to offer more than just a job. Through an emphasis that values employee growth, diversity, and innovation, the company's culture prepares team members for opportunities to make a career – with YKTA engaging in significant workforce development programming and partnerships. **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](http://bcatoday.org).*