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.

HONORING ALABAMA’S TOP MANUFACTURERS
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, 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; American Metal Group; Avanti Polar Lips; Bridgewater Interiors, LLC; Douglas Manufacturing; Ecology, LLC; Goat Island Craft Brewing, LLC; Golden State Foods; Hom-Tex; Johnson Labs, Inc; McVantage Packaging, LLC; South-eastern Extrusion & Tool, Inc.; Specification Rubber Products; and YKTA (YTEC Keyset Toyotetsu Alabama). Alabama Secretary of Commerce Greg Canfield delivered the keynote address at the luncheon, in which he underscored that the number of employees of each nominee: small with 99 or fewer employees; medium with 100-299 employees; and large with 300 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. Every one of 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 number of employees:

- Small Manufacturer of the Year: the Pell City Schools Education Foundation, Douglas Manufacturing, Pell City, AL
- Medium Manufacturer of the Year: Aker Solutions, Mobile, AL
- Emerging Manufacturer of the Year: Goat Island Craft Brewing, LLC

Manufacturing employees are the foundation of Alabama’s economic success,” Canfield remarked. “These incredible companies continue to move Alabama forward with their motivated workforce, innovation, and growth-minded business models.”

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“THE MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF ALABAMA’S ECONOMIC SUCCESS.” – GREG CANFIELD

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 Education-AL 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 make 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.

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