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Business Advocate

Alabama's
Lieutenant Governor

WILL AINSWORTH,

speaks to a packed
house at the 2019
MOTY awards.

Make Way for Manufacturing

“Manufacturing plays an important role in our state’s economy, and one of my top focuses as lieutenant governor is maximizing our workforce development efforts so companies can grow and thrive here,” said Lt. Gov. Will Ainsworth.



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The 2019 Alabama Manufacturer of the Year Awards brought out the best!

Alabama Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth keynoted the 20th annual Manufacturer of the Year Awards luncheon presented by the Business Council of Alabama and the Alabama Technology Network.

Ainsworth began his remarks by pointing out that his father's company, Progress Rail, was named Small Manufacturer of the Year in 2001. "I was in college then, but I remember how much that honor meant to him and his employees," he said.

As the father to three young children and a former business owner, Ainsworth discussed how the keys to igniting the engine of Alabama's economy are pre-k education and workforce development.

Since its beginning in 2000, the BCA and ATN award ceremony has attracted Alabama

dignitaries and manufacturing leaders to honor companies that are committed to improving Alabama's economy.

"The purpose of the annual Manufacturer of the Year Awards is to shine a spotlight on manufacturing excellence and to give the those who have invested in Alabama the acknowledgment and promotion they deserve," said Katie Boyd Britt, president and CEO of the BCA. "Quite simply, this is an opportunity for the business community to say, 'job well done' to some of Alabama's most successful industries."

ATN Executive Director Keith Phillips said the companies acknowledged today represent the best in Alabama manufacturing and the use of technology. "For 20 years, it has been an honor to partner with the Business Council of Alabama to provide a platform for Alabama manufacturers and suppliers to share their stories of growth, hard work, and their economic impact to our state," Phillips said.

The six finalist for the 2019 manufacturer of the year awards are:

KAMTEK, whose parent company is Canada-based Magna International, employs 170 people. KAMTEK is a Tier 1, automotive manufacturing supplier that specializes in Metal Stamping and Assembly for Mercedes, Volkswagen, Kia and Hyundai. KAMTEK uses the most technologically advanced pressing processes to maintain a competitive advantage with other OEM's in the market. They also focus on employee training and advancement within their skill/trade and the potential for growth within their corporation.

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For complete information on company profile selection, submit an application for the 2020 Awards at alabamamoty.org.

Apply for this prestigious award to:

- Share your story,
- Recognize the hard work and dedication of the your employees,
- Promote your accomplishments,
- Highlight corporate citizenship,
- Join the ranks of other notable manufacturers, and
- Receive well deserved news coverage.

- 1** Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth gives the keynote address at the MOTY Awards luncheon.
- 2** Students from Faith Academy show off their winning robot from the BEST Robotics Competition to MOTY attendees.

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Milo's Tea Company was founded as a restaurant in 1946 by Milo and Bea Carlton after Milo returned from serving our country in World War II. Milo's philosophy was simple – use high quality, natural ingredients, listen to your customers and never sacrifice taste. Their vision still guides them today as they source natural ingredients, fresh brew all of their teas and never use added colors or preservatives. Milo's Tea Company employs 194 people and is located in Bessemer, Alabama.

OnPoint Manufacturing in Florence was formed in 2000 to make garments one at a time in exactly the size that fits the consumer. The business model allows the designer to maximize their time and capital through Purchase Activated Mass Customization of apparel. By combining their new groundbreaking apparel manufacturing technology with years of quality workmanship, OnPoint is taking the promise of apparel on demand to a new level. OnPoint Manufacturing employs 25 people and is the future of the apparel industry.

Specification Rubber Products began in 1968 as a manufacturer of rubber components for the waterworks industry. They are a primary supplier for ductile iron pipe, valve, and hydrant producers. They also offer specialty mechanical molded rubber goods for industrial manufacturing applications. Specification Rubber Products is a subsidiary of the American Cast Iron Pipe Company and employs 62 people.

Thermo Fisher Scientific is a world leader in serving science, with revenues of more than \$24 billion and approximately 70,000

employees globally. Their mission is to enable their customers to make the world healthier, cleaner and safer. Thermo Fisher Scientific accelerate life sciences research, solve complex analytical challenges, improve patient diagnostics, deliver medicines to market and increase laboratory productivity. Located in Auburn, they employ 140 Alabamians in their quest for a safer and healthier population.

For almost 100 years, **ZF Chassis Systems** has been a reliable and competent partner for global vehicle manufacturers worldwide. ZF develops and manufactures products that support the mobility of people and goods, including German- and Asian-based automotive manufacturers. ZF supplies Mercedes-Benz U.S. with complete axle systems for the C-class sedans. With 484 employees, ZF Chassis Systems is a manufacturing leader for Tuscaloosa and the West Alabama region.

Do you feel like your company is a Manufacturer of the Year Award candidate?

Application narrative criteria is based on the number of employees at your business (small, medium, large). You will be independently judged on your company profile, financial growth, manufacturing leadership, product and market growth, and leadership development.



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