

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE ASSOCIATION FOR MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE ANNOUNCES  
INDUSTRY-LEADING AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR OVERALL EXCELLENCE**

*Automation Engineering Receives Top Honor, Seven Others Recognized Regionally*

**ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Ill.** – The Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME) recently announced the North American and regional recipients of its Manufacturing Excellence Award, a recognition honoring companies that have reached and sustained high levels of excellence throughout the past three years.

Automation Engineering, a Greenville, S.C.-based manufacturer of equipment and systems for the healthcare, packaging, energy, tube & pipe and metals industries, was awarded the North American Manufacturing Excellence Award, as well as the Southeastern regional award, at AME's 2009 International Lean Conference.

"The North American Manufacturing Excellence Award recognizes one company that has experienced significant performance and quality improvements during the last three years, and Automation Engineering's success has undoubtedly made extraordinary strides," said Ralph Keller, AME president. "Employee satisfaction has been a key contributor to the company's progress, as employees are encouraged to participate in an extensive leadership training program, and initiate and implement improvement ideas."

Automation Engineering employs approximately 60 people at its 55,000 square-foot facility in Greenville, S.C. On the Lean journey since 2002, Automation Engineering continuously experiences rising profits, and in 2008, they posted approximately \$12 million in revenues.

During the conference, held Oct. 19-23 in Northern Kentucky, eight North American companies were also honored with regional awards:

- Canadian Region: Cogent Power; Burlington, Ontario
- Great Lakes Region: Daman Products Company, Inc.; Mishawaka, Ind.
- Mid-Atlantic Region: Currier Plastics Inc.; Auburn, N.Y.
- North Central Region: Medtronic; Minneapolis
- Northeastern Region: HABCO; Glastonbury, Conn.
- Southeastern Region: Automation Engineering; Greenville, S.C.
- Southwestern Region: Dresser Wayne; Austin, Texas
- Western Region: DJO, LLC; Vista, Calif.

Hosted by AME, the 2010 International Lean Conference will take place in Baltimore, Md. For more information, visit [www.excellenceinside.com](http://www.excellenceinside.com).

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### **About the Association for Manufacturing Excellence**

The Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME) is the premier not-for-profit organization dedicated to the journey of continuous improvement and enterprise excellence. AME's membership is composed of a trusted network of individuals who are committed to leveraging the practitioner-to-practitioner and company-to-company shared-learning experience. Through engaging workshops, seminars and plant tours, and industry-leading conferences, AME members are continually discovering and implementing new continuous improvement strategies and best practices. AME offers its members a multitude of valuable resources to help them stay abreast of current industry developments, and improve the skills, competitiveness, and overall success of their organizations. For more information, visit [www.ame.org](http://www.ame.org) or email [info@ame.org](mailto:info@ame.org).