

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Three Massachusetts Companies Recognized For Lean Operational Excellence

Boston, MA - Operational excellence is the hallmark for one Shingo Silver Medallion Recipient and 2 Shingo Bronze Medallion Recipients of the 2008 Shingo Prize for Operational Excellence. For 20 years The Shingo Prize has educated, assessed and recognized operational excellence in outstanding companies in the U.S., Mexico and Canada. This year's companies have challenged traditional paradigms to face competitive challenges in today's global economy.

The Shingo Prize's singular focus is on the application of Dr. Shingo's levels of transformation: Lean principles, systems, and techniques/tools. True innovation is not achieved by superficial imitation or the isolated or random use of lean tools & techniques and systems ("know how"), but instead requires the "know why" — i.e., an understanding of underlying Principles. The Shingo Prize serves as a roadmap for organizations around the world to transition more confidently to a better future state based on trusted lean principles.

On the twentieth anniversary of its founding, the Shingo Prize significantly "raised the bar" for recognition and at the same time gathered all its awards under a single, international umbrella. This makes the accomplishments of these three companies all the more significant as they join a small and distinguished fraternity of best manufacturers.

"We congratulate this year's recipients in expanding their lean focus to all their business processes and through all the Shingo levels of transformation. They are creating cultures of continuous improvement and empowering their organizations to see improvement opportunities more clearly. This year's recipients have demonstrated various best-practices in world-class processes and have achieved outstanding results delivering high quality, competitive cost and high customer satisfaction," said Bruce Hamilton, President of GBMP, administrator of the Shingo Prize for Operational Excellence in the Northeastern United States.

This year's Shingo Silver Medallion Recipient from the Northeast Region is:
Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems, Andover MA

This year's Shingo Bronze Medallion Recipients from the Northeast Region are:
Callaway Golf Ball Operations, Chicopee MA
Extrusion Technology, Randolph MA

Formal presentation of the Bronze and Silver Medallions will occur both at the Northeast Regional Conference Award Ceremony (October 16, 2008) to be held in Boston, and the International Conference (May 21, 2009) to be held in San Diego, California.

About GBMP: Based at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, GBMP is a non-profit corporation that has worked with hundreds of companies, providing suggestions and solutions resulting in millions in cost savings and increased sales. Each year GBMP trains over 7000 people on Continuous Improvement principles in customized, on-site classroom and shop-floor training sessions and educates over 1000 more people in public workshops, plant tours and the Manufacturing Roundtable.

*About the Shingo Prize: Dubbed the “Nobel Prize of Manufacturing” by Business Week, the Shingo Prize is recognized as the premier global award for operational excellence “The 2008 Recipients have proven themselves as leaders in lean manufacturing and all their supporting business processes,” said Bob Miller, Shingo Prize Executive Director. **The 2008 Northeast Conference and Award Ceremony (October 15-16, 2008) will highlight how lean principles, communities, and techniques/tools can guide a company’s aspirations to be competitive in global markets.***

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