

NEWS RELEASE

TEN MIDWEST MANUFACTURERS REWRITE THE RULES OF GLOBAL COMPETITION

DEARBORN, Mich., November 15, 2006 – The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) announced today that it will partner with The International Trade Club of Chicago (ITCC) on the upcoming two-day Global Manufacturing Series. Senior executives from 10 growing manufacturing companies will share their company's approach to facing global competition and how they developed and implemented their international business strategies at this event on December 7-8, 2006 at the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago.

In a peer-to-peer format – from manufacturers to manufacturers – actual practitioners will convey replicable, strategic and tactical information regarding global options and resources. The two-day Global Manufacturing Series (www.itcc-gms.org) has been designed to assist small and medium-sized Midwestern manufacturing companies compete in the global marketplace through a series of practical and timely case studies.

Presenting companies include Atlas Technology (IL), Bi-Link (IL), GR Spring & Stamping (MI), Hydrox Laboratories (IL), Mathews Company (IL), North American Tool Corporation (IL), Prince Industries (IL), S•K Hand Tool Corporation (IL), and The Schebler Company (IA). In addition, Cardinal Health (OH, IL) in collaboration with one of its top local MBE suppliers (Hydrox Labs) will discuss Cardinal's unique supplier diversity program, how it qualifies its suppliers, and how Midwestern companies can improve their supplier opportunities.

"Manufacturing is alive and well in the Midwest, but it needs to reclaim its leadership by engaging globally," states Series chair and ITCC director Paul Heinze. "We intend to provide concrete and proven strategies for success. The business case studies we will present will offer actionable and replicable tactics and tools to compete globally."

According to SERIES co-sponsor Society of Manufacturing Engineers, the Great Lakes economy is the third largest in the world and in a recent survey 76 percent of area manufacturers indicate their business activity has increased in the last year. Combined, the Great Lakes Gross State Product is \$3.5 trillion. Manufacturing represents 16 percent of this total.

SERIES Program Details

The SERIES will be held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 230 South LaSalle Street in Chicago from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on December 7-8, 2006 with a business networking reception following the meeting on December 7. For registration details, visit www.itcc-gms.org or contact the ITCC Event Coordinator at events@itcc.org or (312) 368-9197.

SERIES Sponsors

The Global Manufacturing Series 2006 is sponsored by ITCC. Partners include the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Tooling & Manufacturing Association, Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) Manufacturing Programs, IIT University Technology Park, Jane Addams Resource Corporation, U.S. Department of Commerce, *The Economist* Business Intelligence Unit, Manufacturers' News Inc., Chicago International Trade Commissioners Association, DeFonseka LLC, International Visitors Center of Chicago, NORBIC and Alliance for Illinois Manufacturing. The State of Illinois and Cook County governments are providing partial financial support for this initiative.

About SME

The Society of Manufacturing Engineers is the world's leading professional society supporting manufacturing education. Through its member programs, publications, expositions and professional development resources, SME promotes an increased awareness of manufacturing engineering and helps keep manufacturing professionals up to date on leading trends and technologies. Headquartered in Michigan, SME influences more than half a million manufacturing practitioners and executives annually. The Society, which celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2007, has members in more than 70 countries and is supported by a network of hundreds of technical communities and chapters worldwide.

About ITCC

The International Trade Club of Chicago (www.itcc.org) is a not-for-profit trade association based in Chicago, Illinois. Founded in 1919, the ITCC is the oldest international trade association in the United States. Members represent a broad range of manufacturing, technology and service sectors, as well as educational, civic government institutions and the foreign diplomatic corps. The Global Manufacturing Series is one of several ITCC programs designed to provide a forum for discussion, collaboration and education to support the profession of international business management and promote the sustained, balanced growth and success of U.S. businesses.

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