

# Standing for Excellence

## GE Honors MFG with Supplier Excellence Award

On March 10, GE Champion Carl LaFrance accepted the prestigious GE “Excellence in Lean” award on behalf of MFG. The awards ceremony was held in Atlanta, GA in conjunction with GE Energy’s supplier conference. This award is presented yearly to one selected supplier for outstanding performance in compliance, quality, lean, direct material productivity, growth and customer-centricity.

“MFG has consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence”, said Jody Markpoulos, vice president of global sourcing, GE Energy. “GE’s Excellence in Lean award recognizes the company’s dedication to integrity, strong values and quality performance.”

In addition to the beautiful trophy, GE will fund a wall mural painted by the Foundation for Hospital Art volunteers to be displayed at the Ashtabula County Medical Center. Since 1984 the non-profit Foundation for Hospital Art has created 30,000+ public works of art at more than 2,000 hospitals in 190 countries.

Award honorees were selected from a field of 60 US and European contenders nominated by GE global commodity leaders and supplier quality leaders. Applications were vetted through a rigorous selection process by GE Energy’s senior sourcing leadership team, and final decisions were based on quantitative metrics and subjective opinion tied to historical relations.



## Teammate Applause

Achievements and New Arrivals



### Six Sigma Green Belt

Miran Vogel, Corporate Auditor receiving certificate from MFG Sr. VP Joe Wilk.



### MFG Union City Service Awards

Jackie Skarzenski, 35 years  
Pat Malec, 20 years



### MFG Alabama Service Award

Mike Gill, 10 years  
Quality/Process/Tooling Manager  
(with Plant Manager Mike Leonard)



### MFG South Dakota

Blake Seas,  
General Manager

## Milestones WES: Accident-Free Zone

Wind Energy Service celebrated both their first full year in business and the remarkable feat of one full year without a single injury. Teammates at WES find themselves in some treacherous positions repairing wind energy equipment throughout the country. Great going, team—we wish you another year of accident-free adventures.



# COMPOSITES age

SPRING/SUMMER 2009



## From Lean to Green

### Waste Stream Investigation and Lean Practices Support MFG's Commitment to Environmental Responsibility

Lean manufacturing is a cultural hallmark at Molded Fiber Glass Companies. Teammates are on alert 24/7 to uncover new ways to reduce costs that do not add value to the end product or customer satisfaction.

In 2008, MFG took "Lean" a step farther—into the realm of "Green" with a mandate to examine the waste stream of all operations in light of environmental impact. An internal program was created to apply the Lean disciplines to energy efficiency, waste reduction, and compliance with environmental regulations.

Led by teammates Matt Narducci and Perry Bennett, the new program started with an assignment to identify and chart waste stream projects. The consolidated findings provide a baseline for the soon-to-be-released corporate "MFG Best Green Practices" which covers all types of waste and outline options, examples, and tips for "getting greener." Results will be monitored over time to support continuous improvement.

Of the many notable Lean Green projects that are happening at MFG, the following cases are interesting efforts that show what creative thinking and team vision can achieve.



*CEO Richard Morrison works with Matt Narducci (Corporate Safety Manager) and Perry Bennett (Corporate Health, Safety and Environmental Director) to develop the Lean Green program, MFG's corporate-wide mandate to pursue improvements to the waste stream.*



*MFG Tray teammates LaZica Charbonerau and Bill Stewart demonstrate the new shredder that perforates cardboard into packaging material. Boxes from incoming material now cushion the products going out the door.*

**MFG TRAY** is addressing environmental impact in large and small ways. To reduce energy usage they enrolled in a two-part program called EnerNOC (Energy Network Operations Center). The first part is the Emergency Load Response Program that provides financial incentives for peak period electricity reduction. After researching the experiences of other participants, the MFG team determined this was a smart move. Part two involves installation of an EnerNOC Site Server ("ESS") at the factory. This monitoring system provides detailed usage data—real-time power metering, data collection, data communication, reports and analytics—enabling improved planning and decision-making.

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# ACMA Ace Award Goes to MFG for Solstice Coupe

The 2009 ACMA COMPOSITES+POLYCON convention in February brought together more than 180 exhibitors and 2,500 industry professionals. Each year the most innovative products and accomplishments are presented for peer review and recognized with ACE and Pinnacle Awards.

This year, the Process Innovation Award went to Molded Fiber Glass Companies (MFG CSC) for its 2009 Pontiac Solstice Coupe Rear Floor Assembly (trunk). This product demonstrated innovation in manufacturing methods that increase production rate and volume while maintaining quality. The one-piece compression-molded composite trunk provides storage, attachment points for body panels, hardware attachments for electrical components and air ducts. It was produced using proprietary nano technology to achieve a special SMC with a specific gravity of 1.5. Because it's made from composite, the trunk is corrosion resistant, an important feature for the underside of the vehicle.

Many teammates at MFG Corporate, MFG Design and MFG CSC are behind this accomplishment—congratulations and thank you to everyone that played a part!

On another front, Richard Morrison, CEO of MFG was recognized with the ACMA President's Award for his 40+ years of contributions and leadership to the composites industry. Presenting the award to Richard was John Tickle, ACMA president. "Since meeting Richard in 1972, I've been impressed with his unflinching commitment to supporting the interests of the composites industry," said Tickle. "Over these years, he and his company have contributed significant funds, expertise and time supporting our association's activities, from sponsorships and technical papers to employee participation."

*For 40+ years of contributions and leadership to the composites industry, Richard Morrison, CEO of MFG received the 2009 President's Award from ACMA President John Tickle.*



*The 2009 ACE Award for Process Innovation went to MFG for demonstrating innovation in manufacturing methods with the Pontiac Solstice Coupe Rear Floor Assembly (trunk).*



## From Lean to Green *Continued from cover*



*MFG Alabama found a way to eliminate use of aerosol adhesive from one production processes, eliminating the cans, the adhesive and the propellant—a very positive change for the environment! Assembly teammates Sherril Berry, Lynn Vann, Byron McClain and Joey Clark are involved with this new process.*

It's too soon to know what the annual energy savings will be, but the 2009 financial impact, including incentives, will be in excess of \$23,000.

MFG Tray teammates also found a use for waste cardboard that accomplishes all 3R's (reduce, recycle and reuse) in one smooth move. Although recycling waste cardboard has been in place for 10+ years, a shredder was discovered that perforates sheets into usable packaging material. Cardboard from incoming material now cushions the products going out the door. This helps the recycling effort, eliminates the expense of plastic bubbles, and reduces overall waste!

### MFG ALABAMA

Dissatisfied with the quality of service and cost of their refuse removal service, teammates at MFG Alabama went straight to the bottom line—literally. With no alternate supplier to turn to, the investigative teammates took a hard look at what was going into the dumpsters, and why. Their findings suggested that if the entire company could be engaged, there was an opportunity to significantly impact the waste stream—saving both the Earth's and MFG resources.



# Governor Mike Rounds Visits Aberdeen

Starting a green field manufacturing plant is no easy task. Thanks to the good efforts of MFG South Dakota teammates, the Aberdeen community, and the state of South Dakota, MFG has made progress in creating a first class wind blade production facility. Governor Rounds recently toured the entity to express continuing support and encouragement, and to congratulate MFG on completion of the 100th blade.

The South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry recently lauded MFG SD with one of four 2009 ABEX awards for business excellence. ABEX awards are given annually in conjunction with the Governor's Giant Vision Business Plan Awards. MFG SD received the outstanding New Kid on the Block award, recognizing a company that has been in existence less than 3 years. Blake Seas, general manager of MFG SD, accepted the award.



*Governor Mike Rounds paid a visit to congratulate MFG South Dakota on rolling out the 100th blade! Teammates had a great opportunity to talk directly with the governor.*



*Blake Seas, general manager of MFG SD, accepted the 2009 ABEX award for business excellence from Governor Mike Rounds.*

In the last issue of Composites Age it was reported that teammates celebrated shipment of the first wind energy blade. Months later, Governor Rounds paid a visit to congratulate the team on rolling out the 100th blade! This accomplishment was possible through the extreme dedication and hard work of many teammates throughout the Molded Fiber Glass Companies. Many teammates from other entities accepted tours of duty to Aberdeen to train, problem-solve, and otherwise contribute their skills and knowledge to get this new entity off to a successful start. Thanks to all!



The first item was cardboard. Following a unique course, teammates purchased an inexpensive trailer and persuaded the City of Opp to make a weekly recycling pickup, returning the trailer empty. Other objects identified in the dumpster included items that were candidates for government, commercial or supplier recycling programs, including paper, scrap plain steel, stainless steel and knife blades.

The disposal of wood pallets was approached from both consumption and disposal angles. Ways were uncovered to reduce in-bound material, automatically

reducing the stockpile. On the disposal side, many creative ideas surfaced: some suppliers agreed to retrieve their pallets; trucking outfits were invited to take what they could use for free; some were offered to teammates for home heating.

Another find in the dumpster—boxes of discarded gun roving roll-ends. One week of accumulation was a significant amount of material, so shift leaders started helping teammates utilize each roll to the end. Meanwhile, alternate packaging with continuous-use rolls was sourced, eliminating roll-ends from the dumpster completely.

Probing into processes, teammates discovered a way to eliminate scrap trimming and paper waste by converting several small parts from hand lay-up/spray-up to SMC parts procured from MFG CSC (at a cost savings)! Buckets for transporting resin to point of use were eliminated by installing bulk resin tanks and permanent piping to molds. And aerosol cans—a menace to air quality and landfill—were eliminated with a process improvement that involves simply cleaning the surface and using weighted rollers for application.

