



PRESS RELEASE
EMBARGOED UNTIL 9:30 P.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2013

NOTE: Companies will not learn they have won until the night of the banquet. Please do not contact any winners prior to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 28.

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**Nekoosa Coated Products Wins
2012 Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Award
Nekoosa company wins special award for operational excellence**

Milwaukee – Nekoosa Coated Products, LLC is one of eight Wisconsin companies awarded a prestigious Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Award. The winners were announced Thursday night at a black tie banquet honoring the 58 nominees.

Nekoosa Coated Products is a specialty paper manufacturer and converter that has been in business for nearly 50 years. Nekoosa continues the tradition of manufacturing carbonless papers while creating their own legacy with their recent diversification into specialty substrates like synthetic papers, pressure-sensitive films, magnetic paper and coated papers. Nekoosa makes it their goal to closely monitor changes in the industry, remain positive and boldly move forward with the development of innovative new products.

They have expanded their product portfolio to include twelve new specialty products in the past five years. Nekoosa focuses on employee safety, wellness, recognition and development in order to create a positive working environment for their team. They have established employee programs to focus on each of those areas and have met many goals which are celebrated by their employees such as working 968 days (and rising) without an OSHA recordable or lost time incident, improved wellness scores by over 10 percent in the last 3 years with 90 percent voluntary participation, and averaged just under 3 percent turnover in the last five years. Thanks to an innovative incentive program, Nekoosa has averaged over 45 percent perfect attendance!

Celebrating its 25th year, the Manufacturer of the Year Award program recognizes manufacturers of all sizes and industries for their contributions to the great state of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year award winners were selected by an independent panel of judges representing industry, education, and the public sector.

(MORE)

The accounting and advisory firm of Baker Tilly, the law firm of Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, and the business association Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce sponsor the MOTY awards program. Additional information can be found online at www.wimoty.com or by calling (800) 362-7301.

The 2012 winners are:

Grand Awards

Greenheck Fan Corporation, Schofield - Mega Category
Walker Forge, Inc., Clintonville - Large Category
Weldall Mfg., Inc., Waukesha - Medium Category
Power Test, Inc., Sussex - Small Category
OEM Fabricators, Inc., Woodville - Workforce Development Category

Special Awards

Alliance Laundry Systems, LLC, Ripon - Market Leadership Award
HUSCO Automotive Holdings, LLC, Whitewater - Technology Innovation & Impact Award
Nekoosa Coated Products, LLC, Nekoosa - Operational Excellence Award

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NOTE

Winner logos and company leader photos are available online here: <http://www.wmc.org/?p=35480>

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