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Northeast Shingo Prize Conference: Keynote Speakers Announced
Businesses to Share Lean Practices and Recognize Excellence

Boston, MA - The 4th annual Northeast Shingo Prize Conference will be held on **Wednesday, October 15th and Thursday, October 16th, 2008** at the University of Massachusetts Boston. The two-day conference focuses on Lean manufacturing practices and features talks by industry lean leaders and educational workshops. The event concludes with an award ceremony recognizing the 2008 Shingo Prize Medallion recipients from the Northeast Region. This year's theme, "**A Community of Lean**" reflects the belief that Lean manufacturing is critical in today's global economy and one of the crucial aspects of implementing Lean is being involved in a community where manufacturers can learn from lean leaders and peers. The primary goal of The Shingo Prize for Operational Excellence is to provide companies with a framework to enable them to remain competitive on a global level and to keep manufacturing operations and jobs in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic United States.

The Shingo Prize for Operational Excellence in conjunction with GBMP, Inc. also announced today the keynote speakers for this year's Conference.

Jerry Bussell, Vice President of Global Operations at Medtronic Xomed, will open the conference with a presentation on "**Community-Wide Lean**". Jerry was recently awarded the prestigious Medtronic Wallin Leadership Award for transforming Medtronic Xomed's traditional manufacturing operation into a nationally recognized model of Lean manufacturing. For over twenty-five years Jerry has been involved in the operations of high growth companies at various levels including Bristol-Myers Squibb, Allergan Inc., and Kraft Inc. He serves on the Board of Directors for the First Coast Manufacturing Association and is also a trustee of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce. Jerry is also Chairman of the Jacksonville Lean Consortium and a Chairman on the Board of Governors for The Shingo Prize. Under Jerry's leadership, Medtronic ENT/NT was named one of Industry Week's Best Plants in North America in 2002 and was recipient of the Shingo Prize in 2003.

Thomas Hartman is Senior Director of Queretaro Operations for Autoliv North America and will open day two of the conference with a discussion of **YOKOTEN** or "best practice sharing" – the Lean tool of copying and improving on kaizen ideas from others. Mr. Hartman serves as a member of the Board of Governors of the Shingo Prize and as a Director of the Shingo Prize of Central Mexico. Autoliv is the world's foremost producer of automotive safety systems with over 80 facilities in 30 countries serving every automaker in the world. Mr. Hartman is responsible for the financial performance of the two manufacturing plants in Queretaro, Mexico with a total of 2,900 employees, as well as the Mentoring and Development of the of the Management personnel within the Queretaro Operations.

Other speakers announced today include: Ross Robson, former Executive Director of the Shingo Prize for Operational Excellence; Joel Ellis of the Missile Defense Agency (Sensors); Steve Estes of Raytheon; Rob Pojasek of Harvard University; and Jodie Sarocco of New Balance. The agenda also includes two virtual plant tours - of Raytheon IADC and Abiomed, plus numerous networking and mentoring opportunities, The Community of Lean Lounge and several panel discussions about local lean implementations at Hologic, Callaway Golf Ball Operations, Vibco and Jotul North America.

Conference registration and sponsorship information is available at www.neshingoprize.org. Registrations received before August 1, 2008 will receive an additional \$100 off the cost of admission and the first 100 people to register will be entered into a raffle to win a trip for two to the National Shingo Conference in San Diego, California in May 2009.

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 and 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. GBMP awards The Shingo Prize for Operational Excellence in the Northeastern Region of the United States, in eleven states, from Maryland to Maine.

*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 North American Shingo Prize for Operational Excellence was established to recognize business excellence in the United States, Mexico and Canada. "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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