



Two New England Companies Win Gold Medals For Excellence in Manufacturing

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Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems' (IDS) Maritime Mission Center in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, and BAE Systems Advanced Composite Manufacturing are 2007 Gold Medal recipients of the Northeast Shingo Prize for Excellence in Manufacturing. The Prize is administered by GBMP, Inc. at the College of Management at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Dubbed the "Nobel Prize of Manufacturing" by Business Week, the Shingo Prize is recognized as one of the premier manufacturing awards and recognition programs in North America for the practice of lean manufacturing, a methodology that eliminates waste from business processes.

The Northeast Shingo Prize recognizes increasing levels of lean implementation through a four-tier system: Bronze, Silver, Gold, & Platinum. Eight other state level awards are committed to carrying on the mission of the North American Shingo Prize throughout North America. The Northeast Shingo Prize is open to any manufacturer in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, and Rhode Island.

The two winners demonstrated improvements throughout their facilities with the hard work of their employees using Lean principles. Some of these improvements include:

- A 40% increase in sales per square foot of manufacturing space
- Lead times reduced from 21 days to 3 days
- 13,000 system transactions eliminated
- A 66% reductions in scrap
- 99.7% on-time delivery
- 40% reduction in receiving costs
- A 99% customer acceptance rate

"We are very pleased to have two fine examples of Lean Manufacturing as our 2007 recipients for the Northeast Shingo Prize," said Bruce Hamilton, President of GBMP and administrator of the Northeast Shingo Prize. "One, Raytheon MMC from Portsmouth, Rhode Island, is returning from last year's Silver recognition to score well into the Gold Level in the current year. This truly exhibits the spirit of Continuous Improvement that is the cornerstone of Lean. BAE Systems of Merrimack, New Hampshire, is our first recipient from that state and received the highest score ever awarded to an applicant for the Northeast Shingo Prize. Both plants have aptly demonstrated that excellence in manufacturing leads to superior bottom line results enabling manufacturers to grow and thrive in the Northeast region."

The winners will be officially presented with their Northeast Gold Shingo Prize at the third annual *Northeast Shingo Conference Awards Presentation Banquet* on Thursday, October 4, 2007 in Boston, Massachusetts. The 2-day conference, starting on October 3rd, will highlight how industries in the Northeast are implementing lean manufacturing and features many nationally renowned lean leaders. For more information on the conference or to register, please call Chris Martin at (617) 287-7648, or visit www.neshingoprize.org.

Created in 1994 within the College of Management at UMass Boston, GBMP has helped hundreds of manufacturers reduce costs and remain competitive in this global economy. GBMP provides expertise in Lean manufacturing and Six Sigma through education, training and shop floor implementation of these tools. GBMP administers The Northeast Shingo Prize for Excellence in Manufacturing. GBMP's staff includes five Shingo Board examiners and two Vice Chairs. For more information, please visit www.gbmp.org.