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Press Release

Source: Plastics News

Plastics News Names 3 Processor of the Year Award Finalists

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AKRON, Ohio--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Plastics News has named three finalists for its 11th annual Processor of the Year Award. The Akron-based weekly newspaper will honor the finalists and announce the winner at a Feb. 27 reception at its Feb. 25-28 Executive Forum 2007 at the Paradise Point Resort in San Diego. Senior executives of each firm will participate on a best-practices panel the following morning. The finalists are:

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- Berry Plastics Corp. of Evansville, Ind. – Berry has grown from an injection molder of aerosol overcaps into one of the world's largest packaging manufacturers, also doing blow molding, thermoforming and tube extrusion. It serves a who's who list of consumer products powerhouses. Berry's sales have nearly tripled in the past three years, from \$552 million in 2003 to a projected \$1.45 billion in 2006. The 25-plant, 6,900-employee company has generated average annual sales growth of 21 percent since 1999, according to Plastics News data. In 2006 private equity funds Apollo Management LP and Graham Partners Inc. purchased Berry, becoming the latest in a string of financial owners of the firm. But it has maintained

consistent management through the changes, led by President/CEO Ira Boots, a 29-year company veteran.

- Innovative Injection Technologies Inc. of West Des Moines, Iowa -- After reaching the finalist's circle for this award last year, the company known as i2Tech is back to try again. President Robert Janeczko and his son, Josh, co-own the firm, which they bought from Morton Industrial Group in 2003. They project sales will rise slightly to \$27.2 million in 2006, after a 10 percent jump the previous year. In 2006, i2Tech gained two major new customers and hit record tool changes of 81 per week. It has been profitable for 13 straight quarters. The Janeczkos have invested heavily in the 140-employee company, have broadened its customer base and applied an open-book financial approach with employees and progressive human-resource policies.

- Mack Molding Co. of Arlington, Vt. -- Mack, a 1999 finalist for PN's Processor of the Year

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Award, has completely remade itself in the face of global competition. The privately owned, 1,850-employee injection molder and contract manufacturer shifted away from the cutthroat computers and business equipment sectors that were migrating offshore. Now Mack is a strong player in markets as diverse as medical devices, furniture, very large truck parts, recreational and utility vehicles and big-screen televisions. Its sales have jumped 18 percent a year over the past two years, to \$277 million in fiscal 2006. A strong proponent of upfront product design, the firm earns high marks for quality and customer relations.

Plastics News presented its first Processor of the Year Award in 1996. The award -- judged by PN editorial staffers -- honors a company or operating division in North America that has displayed excellence in financial performance, quality, customer relations, employee relations, environmental record, public service efforts and technological innovation.

Ernst & Young Corporate Finance (Canada) Inc. joins Plastics News in co-sponsoring both the Processor of the Year Award and the reception. The Feb. 27 reception will be one of the highlights of the Forum, which features 33 speakers in 2 1/2 days. The \$1,395 registration fee includes one ticket to the awards reception; additional tickets can be purchased for \$140 by calling Nancy Parks at (330) 865-6134. For the full Forum program, or to register, go to <http://www.plasticsnews.com/forum2007> or call (888) 368-7229.

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