Act Now to Nominate Michigan’s Manufacturer of the Year

Shine a spotlight on manufacturers doing great things for Michigan! Nominate a deserving manufacturer for the John G. Thodis Michigan Manufacturer of the Year Award. The deadline to submit nominations has been reopened for a limited time. Act now to submit your nomination by 5/28/15.

The list of past recipients reads like a Who’s Who of Michigan manufacturing and the person you nominate could be next — it could even be you! Find the nomination form (and a sample nomination) in > Events > Award Programs and complete your submission by 5/28/15. The 2015 recipients will be honored at the Manufacturing Forum on 8/6/15 in Holland. See page 26 for more on this year’s Manufacturing Forum.

Discounted Rate and Exclusive Member Connections at The Big M

When great leaders and innovative ideas converge, incredible things can happen. The Big M Manufacturing Convergence is happening 6/2/15 through 6/4/15 at the Cobo Center in Detroit and MMA members can attend at a discounted rate! While you’re there, share ideas and develop new relationships at MMA’s free member networking reception on 6/3/15.

Contact MMA’s Sarah Pytel, at 517-487-8521 or pytel@mimfg.org, to receive your 15 percent discount code and register to take part in MMA’s member mixer.

Endurance Carbide: A Michigan Company to Watch

Endurance Carbide, a manufacturer of tungsten carbide wear parts in Bridgeport Township, is among the Michigan 50 Companies to Watch list for 2015. “This is a great accomplishment that could never have happened without the hard work of every employee and the loyalty of our customers and suppliers,” said Patrick Curry, executive president of Endurance Carbide and a 2014 recipient of the John G. Thodis Michigan Manufacturer of the Year Award. “I am so proud and excited to see them receive the recognition they deserve and look forward to us continuing that level of excellence.”

The Michigan 50 Companies to Watch Award, sponsored by Michigan Celebrates Small Business, honors growth-oriented businesses based on market expansion, job creation, technological innovation and community impact.

Kenwal Steel Facility Upgrades Save 93% in Energy Costs

Manufacturers can achieve huge savings by reducing in-house maintenance and utilizing 21st century energy options. Dearborn-based Kenwal Steel did exactly that and saved 93 percent in energy costs while benefitting from 60 percent fewer lighting fixtures and $18,700 in additional savings.

Kenwal Steel is a national leader in flat-rolled steel distribution, and energy was a significant chunk of their business costs. Unable to fix the problem with their original lighting, Kenwal turned to Total Source LED to manage a lighting retrofit of a 100,000 square foot Kenwal facility in Detroit.

“In a busy facility like ours, it’s hard to imagine light energy savings of 93 percent, yet that is exactly what we’ve been able to achieve,” said Kevin Stoops, IT manager of Kenwal Steel.

In less than one year, the company has already seen a 124 percent return on investment.

EMP Puts Community First with Robotics-Driven Mentorships

Engineered Machined Products (EMP) is dedicated to putting young people in Escanaba on the path toward careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). In their fifth year mentoring students from both Escanaba High School and Gladstone High School, they have seen both schools reach the First Robotics World Championships twice.

“We’re committed to youth initiatives in our community,” said Paul Harvey, director of business development for EMP. “Twenty-first century careers in manufacturing begin with technology and our employees are passionate about providing young people with as many opportunities as possible. Manufacturing needs talent, these kids have the excitement for it; it