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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AME Announces the 2017 Excellence Award Recipients

ROLLING MEADOWS, Ill. – September 25, 2017 – The Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME) today announced four recipients of the AME 2017 Excellence Award. The AME Excellence Award primarily recognizes North American manufacturing plants that have demonstrated excellence in manufacturing and business. The award acknowledges continuous improvement, best practices, creativity and innovation.

The 2017 AME Excellence Award recipients are:

AGCO Corporation – Jackson, Minnesota

AGCO Corporation is a global leader in the design, manufacture and distribution of agricultural solutions and related services. The AME assessment team highlighted AGCO's excellent job at creating an engaged workforce that continually drives toward operational excellence. Policy deployment has been started at the top level, and AGCO is on the journey to extend this activity throughout the organization and down to the shop floor. The award presentation will take place on Nov. 2, 2017.

Littelfuse – Dongguan, China

Littelfuse is the world leader in circuit protection with well-established, growing global platforms in power control and sensing technologies. Littelfuse has more than 10,000 employees in over 40 locations throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia. Littelfuse Dongguan Co, Ltd. manufactures products for the company's electronics business unit. The AME assessment team highlighted the strong commitment by Littelfuse to operational excellence both at the corporate and plant level. The team also commended the company's lean small group activity meetings where employees describe the improvements they made and the impact to safety, quality, cost and productivity. The award presentation will take place on Nov. 1, 2017.

Littelfuse – Suzhou, China

Littelfuse Suzhou Co, Ltd. is one of five Littelfuse factories located in China and manufactures products for the company's electronics and automotive business units. The AME assessment team highlighted Littelfuse Suzhou's quality management system, which is set up to meet or exceed customer requirements. The team also praised the facility's excellent coaching and mentoring program, which has been improving since its introduction in 2015. The award presentation will take place on Nov. 1, 2017.

Powerblanket – Salt Lake City, Utah

The leader in total temperature control, Powerblanket designs and manufactures high technology smart controls and monitoring devices, heating blankets, and chilling products that solve a wide range of temperature problems in industries such as oil and gas, construction, industrial, mining, and railroad. The AME assessment team highlighted Powerblanket's great culture throughout the company. The team also commended Powerblanket's improvements and impressive turnaround, especially for only being three years into its lean journey. Powerblanket is the smallest company to receive the AME Excellence Award. The award presentation will take place on Oct. 25, 2017.

The AME Excellence Award has a rigorous selection process that begins when a company submits an extensive achievement report based on the AME Excellence Award evaluation criteria. Achievement reports are evaluated by the AME award assessment team. For companies that score high enough in this achievement report review, an intensive site visit is completed, during which a volunteer team of manufacturing practitioners validates the submitted achievement report. Recipients of the Excellence Award are selected based on the combined results of the achievement report review and site visit feedback.

Beginning in 2018, AME will no longer require a written achievement report. The AME Lean Sensei® allows applicants to provide the important information the AME award assessment team needs to evaluate the applicant's readiness for a site visit; AME believes that excellence is best validated by going to the gemba. Visit www.ame.org/lean-sensei for more information.

The AME Excellence Award is not something that can be achieved by one person or one company leader. It takes all team members working together to achieve the level of enterprise excellence that the AME Excellence Award recognizes. With that in mind, AME representatives will visit award recipients' facilities to present awards in person so that everyone working in these facilities can participate in the celebration.

Recipients will also be honored at the AME 2017 International Conference, taking place Oct. 9-13 in Boston, Mass. Recipients will share their best practices with other lean and continuous improvement practitioners in attendance.

To learn more about the Excellence Award and the 2017 recipients, visit www.ame.org/excellence-awards.

About the Association for Manufacturing Excellence

The Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME) is the premier not-for-profit organization dedicated to the journey of continuous improvement and enterprise excellence. AME's membership is composed of a trusted network of volunteers who are committed to leveraging the practitioner-to-practitioner and company-to-company shared-learning experience. Through engaging workshops, plant tours, webinars, summits and industry-leading conferences, AME members are continually discovering and implementing new continuous improvement strategies and best practices. Join AME in leading the "Renaissance of Manufacturing in North America." For more information, visit www.ame.org or email info@ame.org.

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