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PMA Announces Innovation Award Winners

CLEVELAND, OH—April 8, 2008—During the Precision Metalforming Association's (PMA) Regional METALFORM trade show in Birmingham, AL, April 1-3, 2008, members of PMA's Next Generation Leaders Division awarded two exhibiting companies with Innovation Awards. Next-generation leaders in attendance at METALFORM visited the booths of companies displaying new equipment, services and software, and then evaluated those companies to determine the winners of the second-annual Next Generation Innovation Awards. Winners were presented with a certificate from Division Chair Robb McCoy of ART Technologies, and Vice Chair Jeff Aznavorian of Clips and Clamps Industries.

The Best New Equipment/Service Innovation Award was presented to Miyachi Unitek, Monrovia, CA, for developing the LMF-2000 fiber laser marker. Both the 10W and 20W versions are capable of Q-switch frequencies of 2-500 kHz for maximum mark quality and speed, and have all the advantages of fiber technology with additional features that enable the user to specify a tailored solution. These features include a PC, touchscreen, stand-alone or pendant operation, intuitive and customizable marking interface, integrated rotary and XYZ motion, LAN connectivity, and an in-line camera option to view the mark and provide a non-intrusive code verification or read capability. In addition to the standard marking software, a number of software options are available to seamlessly integrate the marker into existing and legacy systems.

The Best New Software Innovation Award went to Engineering Technology Associates (ETA), Troy, MI, for its die system simulation software. ETA's DYNAFORM 5.6 contains many new features, including a module called Die System Analysis (DSA). DYNAFORM allows an organization to entirely bypass soft tooling to reduce overall tryout time, lower costs, increase productivity and provide complete confidence in die system design. It also allows evaluation of alternative and unconventional designs and materials for an optimal solution.

The Next Generation Innovation Awards were part of the activities of the second-annual Next Generation Leaders Day at METALFORM on April 1. In addition to the Innovation Awards, Next Gen'ers participated in a roundtable session to discuss how best to communicate with different generations working under the same roof. The event was facilitated by Debbie Pearce, Pearce Communications Group, LLC. The day concluded with attendees networking at PMA's annual Awards of Excellence in Metalforming reception.

The Next Generation Leaders Division is dedicated to developing industry knowledge and leadership qualities for the next generation of metalforming industry leaders. Division activities are open to anyone from a PMA member company who is on a path of professional growth, a new or emerging leader, and will benefit from interaction with others in similar stages of professional development. Visit www.pma.org/division/nextgen.

PMA is the full-service trade association representing the \$91-billion metalforming industry of North America—the industry that creates precision metal products using stamping, fabricating and other value-added processes. Its nearly 1200 member companies include metal stampers, fabricators, spinners, slide formers and roll formers as well as suppliers of equipment, materials and services to the industry. Members are located in 30 countries, with the majority found in North America—in 41 states of the United States as well as Canada and Mexico.