



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Geater Machining and Manufacturing (GMM) has Achieved SEA Stage 1 Certification

Irvine, California –May 27, 2009 – **The Supplier Excellence Alliance (SEA)** announced that Geater Machining and Manufacturing (GMM), an aerospace company located in Independence, IA, has achieved SEA Stage 1 Certification.

Geater Machining and Manufacturing, Co. (GMM) is a custom precision sheet metal fabrication and machining company, based in Independence IA and founded in 1962 specializing in the production of precision sheet metal and machined components and assemblies for electronics and avionics. GMM serves aerospace, electronics and other high tech industries. High quality parts and outstanding on-time delivery have developed the company's reputation into one that is synonymous with setting high industry standards for precision machined and fabricated products. "A commitment to continuous improvement and lean practices by the leadership and employees of GMM helped the company achieve certification in just over a year. We have seen improvement in our communication throughout the facility, a reduction of lead time, and increased capacity; while maintaining our on-time deliveries of 99.5% or better" said Jerry Bitterman, Geater Machining and Manufacturing CEO.

SEA is the non-profit alliance of aerospace and defense prime and tier-one contractors and leading sub-tier suppliers organized to transform the global supply chain. Prime-empowered and supplier-led, SEA seeks to accelerate the performance of small and mid-sized production suppliers.

Virtually all major prime and tier-one contractors endorse the SEA Certification as the preferred approach to continuous improvement and process management. "While the SEA Certification is voluntary, it will distinguish the highest performing supplier companies and provide primes and tier-ones with a reliable way to identify low-risk, high-performing suppliers," said, Michael G. Beason, Founder and Chairman Emeritus for SEA.

SEA Certification follows the three stages of the SEA Roadmap for development (Stage I – Stabilization, Stage II – Supply Chain Integration, and Stage III – Sustainability). Supplier companies pursue the coveted SEA Certification for each Stage of the Roadmap. To become certified, a supplier company must satisfactorily meet criteria in four critical areas: Leadership and Culture, Workforce Development, Operational Excellence, and Business Results.

SEA member companies represented on its board of directors include The Boeing Company, Northrop Grumman Corporation, EADS North America, Esterline Corporation, United Technologies, Inc, Parker Aerospace, Rockwell Collins, Honeywell Aerospace, Dresser- Rand Group, Roberts Tool Company, Cristek Interconnects, Photo Etch Company, and DRS Technologies.

To learn more, visit the SEA website at <http://www.seaonline.org>.