



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Hixson Metal Finishing, First Processing Company to Achieve SEA Stage One Certification

Irvine, California –September 17, 2010 – **The Supplier Excellence Alliance (SEA)** announced that Hixson Metal Finishing, located in Newport Beach, CA, has achieved SEA Stage One Certification.

Hixson Metal Finishing is a premier processor of steel, stainless steel, aluminum, bronze, brass and copper parts and components as well as their associated alloys for the military, defense, aerospace, and commercial aircraft industries. They provide a wide array of finishing processes to beautify, protect, and enhance the performance of forged, cast, and machined parts. "A commitment to continuous improvement and lean practices by the leadership and employees helped the company achieve certification. 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" says Douglas C. Greene, president of Hixson Metal Finishing.

SEA is a 7-year-old aerospace & defense non-profit alliance founded by prime and tier-one companies and led by sub-tier suppliers committed to accelerating supply chain performance. SEA provides a certification that creates more visibility and new business opportunities for suppliers. SEA customers enjoy increasing performance, reduced risk, and best value.

Virtually all major prime and tier-one contractors who founded SEA, helped to develop 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 our customers with a reliable way to identify low-risk, high-performing suppliers," said, Michael G. Beason, Founder, Chairman and CEO for SEA. .

SEA Certification follows the three stages of the SEA Roadmap for development (Stage One – Stabilization, Stage Two – Supply Chain Integration, and Stage Three – 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 sponsors include Glovia, Ellison Technologies, DMG/Mori Seiki, The Rule Group and America Approved. SEA partners and alliances include The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), The National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), Vistage International, The International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG), A|D|S, the UK's AeroSpace, Defence and Security Trade Organization and The California Space Authority.

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